



## NEWS PAGE 3

### TRAMS, BIKES — AND NO AUTOMOBILES



## INSIDE THE TABLOID

### NETWORK+ THE ULTIMATE ACTS OF PIRACY



## IN THE TABLOID

### THE HOTTEST WRITERS ON THE SHELF

# The miner: a step closer to extinction

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The long-term prospects for Britain's surviving coal mines were thrown into doubt yesterday when the largest producer, RJB Mining, announced plans to shut the country's newest and most advanced "super-pit".

The company, which took over most of British Coal's pits at privatisation three years ago, blamed the decision to close Asfordby mine in north Leicestershire on serious geological problems. But unions and coal experts disputed the claim, insisting the closure was likely to be the first in a series of shutdowns as the demand for coal continued to fall.

The closure last night thrust Labour's energy policy into the spotlight, as John Battle, industry minister, spoke of his "great disappointment" at the news. Mr Battle insisted the industry had a "viable future" and stressed the government's commitment to developing "clean coal" technology for power stations.

But Labour was also accused of adding to the industry's woes by encouraging greater competition in the electricity industry from next year, a move which was likely to fuel the switch to burning cheaper and cleaner natural gas.

Asfordby's demise has highlighted the problems for RJB, when contracts to supply coal to the privatised power generators expire next April. National Power and PowerGen buy almost 30 million tonnes of coal a year from RJB at well above the market price. So far only three million tonnes of supply have been secured for next year.

The amount of electricity generated by coal has fallen dramatically since the onset of gas-fired generating stations in the so-called dash for gas. In 1991 none of the UK's power



Dim outlook: Darren Haywood leaving Asfordby pit after his shift

## Pit falls

1947: Nationalisation of coal industry  
718,000 miners 958 pits  
1974: Miners' strike - 3 day week  
242,000 miners 259 pits  
1979: Conservatives elected  
235,000 miners 223 pits  
1984: Start of year-long strike  
191,000 miners 170 pits  
1986: After strike  
159,000 miners 133 pits  
1994: Privatisation of British Coal  
9,000 miners 16 pits

came from gas, while two-thirds came from coal. Last year gas accounted for 20 per cent of power and coal for just 40 per cent.

Asfordby was originally meant to be one of three pits built in the area, of which only one was allowed after a prolonged public inquiry. British Coal had invested £320m in the project since 1984, hoping to fill 25 years' worth of reserves. RJB ploughed a further £60m into the pit, much of it spent in trying to solve the geological problems.

The two 500-metre shafts will be filled in and sealed by the end of the year, after which time RJB is expected to offer the land for sale. Hundreds of metres of underground roadways, lined with concrete like the Channel Tunnel, will remain empty.

Gordon McPhie, RJB's finance director, said the difficulties were unique to the pit and could not be solved. "People who suggest otherwise are totally wrong. The risk is that if we continue we might kill somebody. This is about killing people."

RJB had suffered a series of setbacks with its state-of-the-art technology since production began in April 1995. Beds of volcanic rock put the coal seam under such severe pressure that machinery was being damaged. To complicate matters further, water was gushing into the mine workings through faults in the rock. Production was finally abandoned last week.

But Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said RJB had moved production to a smaller coal face, where it was mining coal at a small profit, a fact admitted by the company yesterday.

Mr Greatrex urged Labour to come to the industry's aid. "The Labour Government should back us as we helped them get where they are. I have challenged Tony Blair and John Prescott to come here and put things right, but I think if nothing is done then by 2005 the coal industry in Britain will be finished."

RJB said it had offered to find alternative work at its other pits for Asfordby's 490 employees. Miners were given confirmation of the decision at a mass meeting at the pit yesterday morning.

One miner, Robert Hubery, said: "I'm just devastated. I've been in the business 26 years and really don't think there is any future in mining any more."



Claws to the fore: John Prescott studies a Chinese Mitten Crab which, any resemblance to Government ministers apart, will benefit from the initiative to make the shoreline around the Greenwich millennium site more environmentally friendly Photograph: Edward Webb

## Sideways on, you're such a softy

Stephen Goodwin  
Heritage Correspondent

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday let slip the uncomradely thoughts he harbours for his Cabinet colleague Peter Mandelson when he compared the Minister without Portfolio to a crab.

Whatever the similarities between Mr Mandelson and a crustacean with ferocious claws that approaches its prey sideways on, the unguarded observation provoked a flurry of "clarifications" from Downing Street and

totally overshadowed the Deputy Prime Minister's original errand.

Mr Prescott had gone to the Millennium exhibition site to announce the creation of a wildlife-friendly flood defence scheme for the Thames. But then he christened the photocall crab "Peter" and asked: "Do you think you'll get on the Executive Peter?"

Mr Mandelson is bidding for election to Labour's ruling National Executive Committee and Mr Prescott hardly sounded to be wishing him well. The jibe was seized on

by reporters as further evidence of tension between the two men over Mr Mandelson's high-profile role while Tony Blair has been on holiday.

Later attempts by Mr Prescott to "clear up any misunderstanding" were heavier on puns than sincerity. "I wish Peter Mandelson all the best in his attempt to claw his way on to the NEC. I hope that his pincer move goes well because under his hard shell he has a soft heart."

The two colleagues were also at odds over the disclosure that a key part of the Millennium Dome is to

be built in Germany. Mr Prescott upset builders by saying the award of a £6m contract to Koch Konstruktive Membrane of Munich was "a sad reflection on the competence of the [British] industry".

But Mr Mandelson, the minister in charge of the Dome project, said it was a "success story" for British industry. "I am not disappointed really... because overwhelmingly the huge bulk of work and the value of what we are doing at Greenwich is being taken up by British companies," he told BBC Radio WM.

## Lives ruined by animal terrorists

Alexandra Williams

The wife of a leading neuroscientist spoke yesterday of her family's life under siege by anti-vivisection groups after a renewed campaign of terror began against them.

As Professor Colin Blakemore takes up the presidency of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, his wife, Andrée, revealed to *The Independent* the constant stress of living with the protesters' threats.

"For 25 years we've been a top target. It gets unbearable. It would be easy to die of a nervous breakdown if we kept looking over our shoulders. On the day you receive a letter bomb or your property is vandalised you feel strong and think you'll be OK. But today I feel very upset," she said.

At 3am on Saturday, paintstripper was thrown over a car parked in the family's drive



Colin and Andrée Blakemore Photograph: David Rose

and the tyres were stabbed. Their 10-year-old cat was burned by the substance after lying on the car.

The demonstration of Professor Blakemore, of Oxford University, began in 1986 when he

did research that involved sewing shut the eyelids of anaesthetised kittens. The research helped medical understanding of amblyopia - the commonest form of child blindness.

During the past 10 years, the windows of his Oxfordshire house have been smashed, Mrs Blakemore has been threatened with death and the couple's three children with kidnapping. A mailing tube filled with half a pound of explosive and sharp needles was sent to his home by an organisation called the Justice Department in December 1993. And last April, 400 campaigners demonstrated outside his house.

Two years ago Professor Blakemore, 53, formed a think-tank with Les Ward, the director of Advocates for Animals, an Edinburgh charity, to bring the two sides together for constructive debate. Although their Boyd Group has always excluded the Animal Liberation

Front and the violent minority, Professor Blakemore said that he would now be prepared to consider granting them a place at the negotiating table.

"The Boyd Group is an arena for general dialogue. I want progression even if it means including the violent groups - but only so long as we do not lose the peaceful groups," he said.

Mrs Blakemore, 52, contacted *The Independent* "in the hope that the public and legitimate animal rights groups will express their revulsion at such gratuitous infliction of suffering on innocent human beings and now on an animal".

Professor Blakemore said: "Our cat Sharon was very distressed. She had obviously been on the bonnet and had burnt her paws and face. I would never be granted a licence to apply paintstripper to a cat's face and paws without anaesthetic but this is what they've done."

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the ALF, said it looked like the work of the organisation. "It sounds like the ALF," he said. "I do not believe Professor Blakemore about his cat being hurt. It's the kind of emotive thing he'd try and claim. I find his concern hypocritical. He has a history of stitching up eyelids of monkeys and kittens."

"He has written saying he wants to meet me. But a private informal meeting would not get anywhere. There needs to be broader representation."

Professor Blakemore estimates his department uses six monkeys and 12 cats a year. "I have been forced to consider and reconsider the basis of my moral position as a scientist. Every day a scientist should think about it and never be lackadaisical. I want, just as much as the ALF, to stop using animals but it's just a question of when," he said.

## Inspectors sent to the bottom of the class

Judith Judd  
Education Editor

School inspectors, who spend their days telling teachers that they could do better, are themselves given poor marks in an unpublished report seen by *The Independent*.

The report, from the Office for Standards in Education, the inspections watchdog which awarded the same inspectors their contracts, says their reports are vague and woolly, and use sloppy grammar and punctuation.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has said repeatedly that reports must be well-written so that they can be

understood by schools and parents. A review by Ofsted, which looked at 400 reports completed during the summer and autumn terms last year, says that the writing of one in seven school inspection reports is not up to scratch and few are good throughout. One in seven has very good features.

Grammatical errors occur in many: the most common is the lack of agreement between a verb and its subject.

The apostrophe, downfall of many pupils, also catches out the inspectors, for example: "Childrens'". "Punctuation is generally accurate but there are reports in which the use of the apostrophe is erratic, with

omission, misplacement and even superabundance." They are accused of bad grammar: "Attainment and progress is good"; truism: "When teaching is good, pupils are challenged"; jargon: "Continuity and progression"; vagueness: "Teaching is usually satisfactory or better."

Inspectors are accused of inconsistency. Reports tend to start off by painting "an unduly rosy picture of a school" but then they change their tune.

One begins by noting that "teaching promotes sound educational standards" yet the same report reveals that progress in one-third of lessons is not up to standard and pupils

are underachieving in many subjects.

In many reports, judgements are vague. "Skills in spelling and writing are less well developed. Less well developed than what? asks the watchdog's report. And what do terms such as "some", "variable", "uneven" or "mixed" mean when they are used without explanation?

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that the inconsistency between and across reports had been one of teachers' concerns. "Ofsted must put in place quality control for its own inspection judgements."

Leading article, page 13



**Greenpeace sued**  
British Petroleum has begun legal proceedings for damages of £1.4m against the environmental pressure group Greenpeace and four of its members over its occupation of the Stenna Dee oil installation off the Shetland Islands. Page 4

**Child fathers baby**  
A boy of 11 who made his girlfriend pregnant was in hiding with his mother. The girl, 15, said she would keep the baby. Page 5

**Australian cringe**  
Australian officials were trying to defuse an embarrassing row after a secret government document disparaged neighbouring political leaders. Page 8

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## news

## significant shorts

## Sculptor appears in court on human body-parts charge

A sculptor who teaches at the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture appeared in court yesterday charged with stealing human body parts for use in his sculptures.

Anthony Noel Kelly, 41, a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, was remanded on unconditional bail at Horseferry Road magistrates' court. He has been charged under the 1994 Anatomy Act, which prohibits the use of body parts for anything other than medical research and orders that parts must be given a proper burial after three years. Mr Kelly, from Brixton, south London, was arrested in April following raids by police on addresses in West London and Kent. He did not speak during the five-minute hearing.

Neil Lindsay, 24, from South London, faces a similar charge. Both men have been bailed to return before magistrates on 26 September.

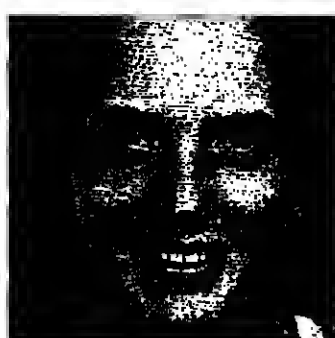
Jojo Moyes

## Loyalists end prison-officer attacks

A loyalist terrorist group has ordered its members to end attacks on prison officers' homes in connection with protests at the Maze jail. The ultra hardline Loyalist Volunteer Force called for mediation to resolve the dispute at the top security prison. LVF inmates caused an estimated £250,000 damage last Wednesday when they went on the rampage, demanding equal rights to other prisoners. Several gun and petrol bomb attacks were also launched on the homes of serving and retired prison officers.

But in a statement using a recognised codeword yesterday, the LVF said: "The ruling army council has ordered its units not to attack prison officers' homes in order to let mediation take place about the crisis in the jail."

## Wounded student home from Israel



A student injured in a shooting in Israel in which her boyfriend was killed arrived home yesterday.

Charlotte Gibb, 20, was gunned down alongside her partner, Max Hunter, 22, as they took a cigarette break on a trip from the southern beach resort of Eilat to a tourist spot in the Negev desert last week.

Miss Gibb was treated for fractures in her left arm, right hand and a gunshot wound in the cheek. After flying back to Britain she was taken to Addenabrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

Mr Hunter, a law graduate from Banstead, Surrey, was buried at the Jewish cemetery in Brighton last Friday. The couple, both students from Durham University, had been in the country for less than a week when they were shot in what was apparently a motiveless attack on Wednesday. They were planning to spend six weeks working on a kibbutz and travelling in Israel.

Miss Gibb, from Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, told Israel radio from her hospital bed in the town of Beer Sheva that it was "a miracle" she had survived the attack. An Israeli military patrol saved her life after spotting her lying beside the body of her boyfriend minutes after they were shot.

## Boy dies in mini-motorbike accident

A 12-year-old boy died yesterday in what police believe was a tragic accident on his small motorbike.

Christopher Molyneux was found near his home on the Loseley Park estate, in Guildford, Surrey, at about 8.30am. A police spokeswoman said: "A post mortem examination is due to take place... Police are investigating the death, but it appears it was the result of a tragic accident."

## Rare birds shot, and nailed to fence

Efforts to safeguard rare birds of prey in Britain have been dealt another blow with two more illegal killings.

The latest cases involve a peregrine falcon, which was found shot dead in the Cheviot Hills, Northumberland, and an osprey which was nailed to a fence in the Belford area of the county. The peregrine was found by a walker in the hills; tests confirmed it had been killed with a shotgun. An investigation has failed to discover who killed the bird but the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the Northumbria police are highlighting the case to draw attention to the problem. Police have also been investigating the death of the osprey. Both species are protected by special penalties - those who kill or injure the birds can face fines of up to £5,000.

## Security guard success on trains

A pilot scheme to use private security guards to protect rail passengers on a busy commuter line has proved so successful that it may be extended, it was revealed yesterday. The guards are being used on Connex South Eastern's North Kent line - scene of a serious robbery earlier this year.

## Banks that say 'yes' to anything

People are turning to their bank managers for help boosting their looks and their sex lives, according to a new report.

Recent requests for cash loans made to banks have included applications for money to have cosmetic surgery such as tummy tucks and tattoo removal, and even a sex-change operation. One customer wanted cash to buy a family graveyard, and another wanted £20,000 to improve his front drive. Asked why it would cost so much, the customer admitted that only £2,000 of the loan was for the new drive and the rest was for a Porsche to put on it. The survey of loan requests, by Yorkshire Bank, showed that banks and other lenders are becoming more ready to help people realise their dreams.

## Glowing performance at the ballet

Sixty English National Ballet dancers have been banned from sunbathing after returning from holiday with glowing pink faces.

Derek Deane, the ballet's artistic director, was dismayed when members of the corps de ballet returned from their summer break with faces glowing with "every shade of red and pink". He has ordered them to become a natural white, and to stay out of the sun, for the company's new production of *Swan Lake*. The dancers have six weeks to lose their summer colour before the classic ballet opens at the Apollo theatre in Oxford on 30 September. "We simply can't give roasted swans to the public," Deane said.

## people



Unhappier times: Marks behind bars in the US (Photograph: Brendan Monks)

## Howard Marks applies to be Blair's drugs czar

A Cve go, that of Howard Marks, the legendary marijuana smuggler and anti-establishment champion, whose drugs empire once spanned the globe, may not sound the most appropriate applicant for the post of Tony Blair's new drugs czar, to spearhead the Government's assault on the narcotics trade. But none the less, he is applying for the job and hoping for an interview.

Since being released in 1995, after seven years of a 25-year jail term in one of America's toughest penitentiaries, Mr Marks, 52, misses being the scourge of the authorities. He misses "cranking up huge smuggling operations and bringing in tons of dope under their noses," he said yesterday on a visit to England from his home in Mallorca.

At the height of his powers during the 1980s he had 43 aliases and owned 25 companies around the world, set up to launder the proceeds from his massive marijuana shipments. He may not smuggle any more, but he is still adamant that drugs be legalised and uses every opportunity to get this message across.

"That's why I'm standing for the drugs czar post," he said. "I'm writing my application form tonight and popping it in the post to Mr Blair. I suppose it's a bit late, but I've got to have the experience."

Mr Marks spent out his proposals for combatting the drugs problem in the UK.

"It would legalise all drugs but, of course, there would

have to be restrictions on the harmful ones - like a prescription or something. They would not be readily available on the street.

"But the harmless ones, like marijuana, would be treated like cabbage and grown in gardens and allotments. Keep it home-grown."

While he is aware that the PM's policies might be somewhat stricter, he remains ever the optimist. "There's always the chance he'll give me the job. You never know."

Mr Marks has spent his two years of freedom writing and promoting his autobiography, *Mr Nice*, now out in paperback, travelling the UK to attend signing and reading sessions in bookshops, bars and clubs. He is also making an appearance at the Edinburgh Festival and he recently set up a web site on the Internet, giving details of events, music and his beloved marijuana. Throughout, he has kept up his legalisation campaign.

Last year he walked into Marylebone Police station smoking a joint and distributed "hash cakes" to passers-by on the pavement outside.

In the general election, he stood for Parliament (and lost) in four constituencies on a legalisation ticket. And last weekend in Portsmouth, he was the guest of honour at a legalisation rally. True to form, he got himself arrested for fighting up.

Matthew Brice  
Letters, page 13

## Mother speaks for the first time about US baby ordeal

Carolanne Beale, the Briton who was charged with murder and kept in jail after being arrested at JFK airport in New York with the body of her newborn baby girl strapped to her stomach, spoke yesterday for the first time about her ordeal.

Ms Beale, 32, had always insisted that the baby, born in a hotel bath during a trip to New York in 1994, was still-born, and that she had panicked, wrapped its body in plastic bags and cleaned up the bathroom.

But before her trial, she was persuaded to plead guilty to manslaughter in exchange for being allowed to return immediately to Britain, where she would be treated by psychiatrists.

Speaking on Radio 4's Woman's Hour, Ms Beale, said it was a "terrifying" experience, but that she was now able to leave a relatively normal life.

Recalling the night of her arrest, she said: "They had me handcuffed to the bed. The detective guy took my clothes and everything. I thought, if I could keep myself together and tell them what had happened, then they'd just let me go home."

She said she had been motivated by an overpowering urge to bring the child's body back to England. "He [the investigating detective] said to me 'why didn't you leave her here and you could have gone back to England and no-one would have known?', but I just knew I had to bring her home."

"It all seems bizarre in retrospect, but I'm just a normal person," she said.

Ms Beale, a civil servant from Chingford, Essex,



spent eight months in the notorious Riker's Island jail, sharing a cell with prostitutes and drug addicts.

The harsh regime of beatings and ill-treatment forced her to make a plea bargain, she said.

"I just remember it was kind of like - the state I was in I felt that whatever they said to me I'd say yes to because I wanted so much to go home."

Psychiatrists now argue that Beale was "in denial" throughout her pregnancy and in shock after the birth, and needed hospital treatment rather than imprisonment.

She said that being able to bury the baby, who she later named Olivia Ann, in Britain, made it easier to deal with her loss and enabled her to return to her job at the Department of Health.

Kate Watson-Smyth

## Cameron Mackintosh denies Old Vic rescue bid

Sir Cameron Mackintosh yesterday distanced himself from suggestions that he might safeguard the future of The Old Vic, after its current owners put it up for sale.

The theatre's Canadian owner, Ed Mirvish, and his son David, who have supported the loss-making institution for 15 years, are selling the playhouse for £7.5m, having spent £2.5m restoring it.

There had been reports that Sir Cameron, as well as the Royal Shakespeare Company, were interested in buying the Old Vic, but both were at pains to distance themselves yesterday.

"Sir Cameron is definitely not buying the Old Vic and there is no

truth in this rumour. He has no other comment to make," said his spokesman.

"The RSC is committed to the Barbican and is involved in a lottery bid for the Collins Theatre in Islington. It is highly unlikely we would be involved in this," said an RSC spokesman.

Ed Mirvish outbid Lord Lloyd Webber and paid £550,000 to buy the Old Vic in 1982. After refurbishment, it reopened in October 1983, with two Sir Cameron Mackintosh musicals in the opening season.

Sir Peter Hall was appointed artistic director in January. His company has been told to vacate

by 6 December. They have staged 13 plays since he was appointed, but the first part of the season ran at a loss.

The sudden decision to sell has prompted concerns that Sir Peter was brought in simply to make the theatre "look glamorous again", a view that he himself has voiced.

But David Mirvish said yesterday: "Our key concern is that the Old Vic is the only part of our business activity that is not centred in Toronto."

Sir Peter's company is set to continue next year, under impresario Bill Kenwright at a "major West End theatre". A deal is said to be near completion.

Jojo Moyes

## briefing

## SHOPPING

## Supermarkets tighten grip on sales of CDs and videos

The dominance of supermarkets in every sphere of retailing has been underlined this week when it was revealed that they are the fastest growing sellers of CDs, tapes and videos. The big supermarket chains now account for 11 per cent of the total music and video market, up from just 3 per cent in five years, according to a report by Verdict retail consultants.

The most aggressive player in the market is Asda, which alone accounts for 4 per cent of the market, but Sainsbury's, Safeway and Tesco have all expanded into music and videos in the last two years.

The supermarkets have entered the market because they can make profits of up to 30 per cent on CDs and videos, which is much higher than the profits from food. They have been boosting their share of sales by carrying just the top-selling titles and undercutting the prices of specialist record shops.

Supermarkets now account for more of the market than WH Smiths (7.4 per cent) and Britannia (6.5 per cent), but the merged Virgin Megastores and Our Price stores remain the biggest sellers, with 18 per cent of all sales.

Paul McCann

## FOOD

## Roll out the bagels, it's lunchtime

Gone are the days of the standard sandwich. Pita bread, bagels and focaccia are *de rigueur* in children's lunch boxes these days, according to a survey by Sainsbury's.

Children are the biggest consumers of bread - 67 per cent of bread products that are bought are eaten by children under 16 - but, unlike the 65-plus age group, whose first choice is white, sliced bread, they are developing a more sophisticated palate.

The survey of 11,000 children and adults revealed that pita

bread is the most popular type of bread among under-fives but, between the ages of six and 10, a child's first choice is a bagel. Twenty-four per cent of pita bread products are eaten by children under 16, compared with 17 per cent of white bread. Bagels are children's second favourite bread product overall, eaten by 18.3 per cent.

Focaccia is most popular with 25-44-year-old adults who have children, and has superseded the baguette on the dinner table. Clare Garner



## SOCIETY

## Strong backing for ID cards

Four out of five young people support the introduction of compulsory identity cards for teenagers, according to a new survey. And researchers found that some three-quarters of all adults believe ID cards should be issued to everyone living in Britain.

The findings of the NOP poll follow recent concerns about under-age drinking and the growing debate about ID cards for young people.

And support for the introduction of compulsory ID cards was highest among the over-55s, with 83 per cent approval.

Overall, four out of five said ID cards would help prevent under-age drinking and smoking. Reservations centred on fears of a loss of freedom or privacy, which were highest among under-35s.

## CRIME

## Electronic tagging 'does not work'

The use of electronic tags to place offenders under "house arrest", trials of which are currently being extended by the Government, are deeply flawed, according to a report by a prison reform group.

Based on research from the United States, Canada and Sweden, the study claims that tagging cannot stop offenders breaching curfews or committing further crimes. They are also unlikely to reduce the jail population, and people wearing tags have been attacked by vigilante groups, says the Prison Reform Trust.

The critical report follows the Government's decision to double the area in which tags are on trial, in Greater Manchester, Reading and Norfolk, in an attempt to find an alternative to imprisonment.

The trust questions whether tagging is just an expensive political stunt.

Electronic Tagging: Viable Option or Expensive Diversion, £3.50 from PRT, 15 Northburgh St, London EC1V 0AB. Jason Bennetto

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هنا من الأصل



# You, your car and how to end the affair

**Christian Wolmar, author of a new pamphlet on the car, on how to ease the gridlock**

The search is on for alternatives to the motor car.

A pamphlet published yesterday by Friends of the Earth suggests that in many European cities, fewer people use cars to get to work or for leisure journeys because alternatives have been made more desirable.

Britain is now about to embark on a search for similar solutions. Later this week, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will outline the Government's thinking on transport, which will aim to get people out of their cars and into other forms of transport.

If some of the more radical proposals – such as congestion charging or restricting the entry of cars to city centres – are introduced, then it will mark the end of a century-long trend in which governments have tried to meet the ever-growing appetite of cars for land space and natural resources.

Friends of the Earth reckons we need urban areas to have "the cycle networks of Dutch cities like Groningen, the public transport systems of Zurich and the pedestrianisation of Nuremberg."

It is a scenario that Mr Prescott would envy, but he does have one thing in his favour. Unlike other government initiatives which are hamstrung by strictures on public spending, there may well be considerable sums of money available to improve transport. Lynn Sloman, deputy director of Transport 2000, said: "There's lots of ways that the Government can raise money from transport, as long as it manages to convince the Treasury that it should be allowed to recycle the money for transport schemes."

The most obvious source of revenue would be road pricing, charging motorists to enter city centres and charging local residents an annual fee for the right to have a car. But there are plenty of other potential new taxes. Car park spaces for employees could be taxed, both to deter their use and to raise money. Employers could be charged a transport tax, as in Paris, which will be used to fund new services. Out of town supermarkets could be forced to levy charges on their car parks, making it more desirable for people to shop in city centres.

The revenue from fines for speed cameras, which currently goes into the general fund, could, instead, be used first to provide more cameras bringing in huge revenues which in turn could be used to fund transport schemes.

Although a paper on transport issued by the Labour party when it was in opposition last year ruled out many of these suggestions for extra taxes, Department of Transport sources now suggest that they are all being actively considered again.

Public/private partnerships will be encouraged as a way of funding new public transport schemes such as tram systems and possibly new London Underground lines.

Yesterday, Mr Prescott was at pains to point out that the Government is not anti-car, as suggested in leaks of his plans put out by the pro-motoring lobby.

## The Manchester effect

The 18-mile tram system from Bury to Altrincham has succeeded in getting Mancunians out of their cars and on to public transport, a key aim in the Government's transport strategy.

The £150m Metrolink (right) which goes through the city centre, has been very successful, with 18.4 million users last year. This is almost double the number who used to use the old rail service linking the two towns before the tram service was opened five years ago.

According to surveys conducted by Metrolink, about a quarter of those passengers would otherwise have used their cars for those journeys. Moreover, peak traffic on roads from Bury and Altrincham into Manchester has gone down by 6 per cent since the opening of the line.

The success has prompted expansion of the line, but the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority has had difficulty in obtaining funding. After a lengthy delay,



work has just started on a £130m four-mile extension to Eccles, via Salford Quays. The scheme is a public/private partnership. Planning approval has been obtained for two more extensions – 15 miles to Oldham and Rochdale, and 13 miles to the airport – but no money is yet available.

## The Zurich experience



Unlike British towns, most European cities retained their 100-year-old tram networks, which are now enjoying a renaissance and play a key role in their transport systems.

In Zurich (above), the tram is king. When a tram approaches a traffic light, it triggers off a green signal ensuring it does not have to wait. The trams mostly take up road space which only buses and, sometimes, taxis, are allowed to use. They are always kept clear.

Strict regulations – and Swiss self-discipline – ensure that cars do not park in the narrow streets and block the rails. And most important, the trams always run on time.

Most are scheduled to operate every 7.5 minutes, with 5 minute intervals at peak times. The whereabouts of every tram is monitored constantly through sensors, and if there is a hold-up, spare trams are kept in sidings to bridge the gaps, ensuring there are no delays to passengers.

According to Richard Heierli, the former municipal engineer of the city, the image of the trams is in sharp contrast to the British view of public transport. "Anyone who does not use the tram tends to be regarded as out of touch. Leading figures from economic and academic life would not consider commuting in any other way."

by, and he is keen to ensure that if curbs are put on car use, then improved public transport links must be in place to give motorists a viable alternative.

However, as he holds both the Transport and Environment portfolios, he is conscious that the damaging effects of the continued rise in car use cannot be allowed to continue.

The suggested ways of getting people out of their cars, many of which will be put forward in the Green Paper to be published this week, range from the small and cheap to the mega-project. In residential areas, traffic-calming measures and the widespread use of 20mph zones could lead to schoolchildren being able to walk or cycle to school again rather than having to be driven by parents.

Entry to busy motorways by private cars could be restricted, giving priority to trucks, while Mr Prescott is known to favour pedestrianisation schemes in town centres.

The Government is expected to endorse the targets for qu-

druping the use of cycling by the year 2012, and a growing number of Labour MPs favour the setting of targets for reducing traffic, as put forward in a Private Members Bill by Welsh Nationalist and Green MP Cynog Dafys. The previous government passed the Road Traffic Reduction Act, which requires local councils to examine ways of reducing traffic.

There could be a much greater emphasis on special lanes for buses, which are used by far more people than trains, but are considered the Cinderella sector of public transport because of their poor image. If buses were shown to be more reliable and punctual, then, according to surveys, many motorists would be prepared to forego their cars.

Roger Higman, transport co-ordinator of Friends of the Earth, said: "We know what needs to be done. It's a matter of the Government doing it."

*Unlocking the Gridlock by Christian Wolmar, Friends of the Earth, £6.95.*



Two wheels better than four: A cyclist in Regent's Park, central London, yesterday

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



## Man named by police in hunt for serial rapist

**Jason Bennett**  
Crime Correspondent

Police are hunting a serial rapist who is believed to have attacked four women in London, it was disclosed yesterday.

The alleged victims came forward after Scotland Yard took the unusual step of issuing the name and photograph of Ernest Asamoah, 31, who detectives are looking for in connection with the rape of a 17-year-old Italian tourist. Police believe Mr Asamoah, who uses a series of false names, is still living in London.

The Italian student was in a coma for five days after she jumped from a second-floor flat in Stoke Newington, north London, to escape from her attacker.

Scotland Yard revealed last week that Mr Asamoah, who was born in Ghana, had been questioned after the attack, but was released.

Since issuing details of the incident, three other women have contacted the police claiming they had been victims between

May and July. In each case, they claim to have been lured back to the home of a man in Stoke Newington.

The police warned yesterday that the alleged serial rapist was "very plausible and charming" and preyed on students and older women.

In two separate cases, a woman was allegedly befriended by a man while travelling on a night bus and agreed to go back to his home and a second woman was persuaded to go back to a man's flat after meeting him in Finsbury Park. One woman was allegedly raped and the other indecently assaulted.

In a third incident, a man befriended two women while out walking and asked them back to his home for a drink. Once they arrived at his flat in Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington, only one of the women was allowed inside.

When the second started to shout for help, the man threatened her with a kitchen knife. She continued to call for assistance and two men came to her

aid. The woman trapped inside the flat managed to escape as the two men scuffled with her alleged assailant.

A police spokeswoman said: "We issued a two-fold appeal for help to find Asamoah and to hear from other women who had been attacked. We are now investigating four possible cases; two of rape, one of indecent assault and one of unlawful imprisonment."

"These women ... have helped us form a clearer picture of the serial attacker and the way he operates. He has attacked students and older women. He is obviously very plausible, charming and friendly."

Mr Asamoah, a kitchen assistant who has worked in restaurants in Chelsea, Fulham and central London, is said to frequent the West End.

He uses a string of aliases including Samson Mensah, James Awuley, Ernest Amos, Ernest Asamoah and Paul Kofi Mensah. He also uses the first names Yaw, Ofsh-ene and Apenteng.

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## news

# MP faces action over suicide case



Graham: Rumour claims

Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

A Labour MP faces disciplinary action over claims that he took part in a whispering campaign against a colleague which may have helped drive him to suicide.

Tommy Graham, the member for Renfrewshire West, was named along with the party's former deputy chief whip, Don Dixon, in a note left by the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster when he killed himself last month.

An internal party inquiry

into the death is believed to have concluded that Mr Graham had spread rumours about Mr McMaster despite his denial of the claim. It is likely that he could have the party whip suspended, with an announcement possibly as early as today.

Labour officials were suggesting last night that they wanted to see the affair cleared up before the launch of Labour's "yes" campaign on Scottish devolution tomorrow.

Party sources in Scotland have claimed that Mr Graham should have been disciplined

two years ago when they investigated claims of vote-rigging in his constituency, but that the whips' office at the time had failed to act.

The latest inquiry was carried out by the current chief whip, Nick Brown, who received a number of affidavits from party members who swore that Mr Graham had taken part in a campaign against Mr McMaster, who was suffering from fatigue caused by myalgic encephalitis (ME). Rumours had circulated that he was gay and might have AIDS. Mr Graham has said

publicly since his colleague's death that he had a serious drink problem.

The suicide has also caused old allegations to resurface about politics in Paisley. Mr McMaster believed that one reason for his unpopularity was that he had campaigned against drugs gangs in the area along with the Paisley North MP Irene Adams. Mrs Adams had alleged that a company set up with public money had been used to launder drug money.

Last night the Conservatives' Scottish affairs spokesman, Dr

Liam Fox, wrote an open letter to Tony Blair demanding that he return from his holiday in Europe to sort out the affair. In his letter, he wrote: "Labour's disarray in the west of Scotland has been allowed to continue unabated for far too long." Referring to similar problems in other areas of Scotland, he added: "We were told that the situation in Monklands, Glasgow and Govan were all special circumstances. That is no longer a credible excuse."

Meanwhile the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, admitted

in a radio interview that he was worried about the possible impact of the Paisley crisis on the devolution vote. "Clearly there is a problem. Clearly I am concerned and worried, because I read the newspapers like everyone else," he said.

But he hoped Scots would recognise the devolution debate was about a "great matter of principle" - of how Scotland should be governed. "I will want to the best of my ability to argue that case. But the distractions and the difficulties... are obviously a matter of worry."



McMaster: Driven to suicide

## Mir crew shut off power as station spins

Helen Womack  
Moscow

The Russian-American team on *Mir* yesterday shut down all but its most vital life-support systems to save energy after a computer failure disoriented the ailing 11-year-old space station. An official at Mission Control spoke of the complex "chaotically spinning". But displaying the most remarkable sang-froid, he said that there was no immediate danger to the crew.

Russians glued to the space drama had just breathed a sigh of relief at a tea-time television report of a successful docking operation when a later bulletin brought them a fuller picture and more bad news. The docking of a Progress cargo craft to *Mir* had had to be done manually, it turned out, because of a computer failure, which had implications for the whole station.

"We have turned off all energy-consuming equipment and left only life support operations," said Vladimir Solovyov, a senior official at Mission Control. It was likely to take 24 hours to correct the computer malfunction and until then *Mir* would be "chaotically spinning", he said. Kathleen Maliga, a guest from Nasa at Russian Mission Control, commented: "It's a situation that we're watching carefully but we are not worried."

As a result of the latest set-back, the crew will not now be able to go ahead tomorrow with plans to repair *Mir*'s Spektr module, which was damaged during a clumsy manual docking of another Progress cargo craft in June. The station has been running on half power since the hump to the module, which had to be disconnected from the rest of the station.

*Mir* gets its energy from the Sun, whose rays hit the solar panels all over its outer surface. The loss of Spektr meant the loss of the energy that its panels contributed. Now that the whole station is disoriented, even fewer of the Sun's rays are being captured.

Anatoly Solovyov, the highly experienced commander of the crew, which also includes Pavel Vinogradov and Michael Foale, may be able to correct *Mir*'s position in relation to the Sun. They could use the thrusters on the Progress cargo craft and the Soyuz transport rocket which brings the spacemen up and takes them back to the Earth. But this is not a long-term solution; and it is essential the computer is fixed if the station is not to be evacuated. As well as the computer, the oxygen generating and humidity recycling systems have been playing up on *Mir* which, when it was launched in 1986, was only supposed to serve for five years. The Russians are hoping that, if the repairs are a success, they can keep the orbiting banger going until a new international space station is ready next century.

Leading article, page 13



Weighty training: American astronaut David Wolf, guided by frogmen, floats down to a mock-up of *Mir* in a water tank at Star City. Photograph: AP

## BP to sue Greenpeace for £1.4m

Kate Watson-Smyth

British Petroleum has begun a £1.4m damages action against the environmental pressure group Greenpeace and four of its members over its occupation of an oil installation, it emerged last night.

The company has issued a summons against the group and is seeking damages for losses following the "unlawful activities" of protesters during the week-long occupation off the Shetland Islands. A spokesman for Greenpeace said last night that the writ threatened the future of the group.

Those named in the summons, issued by the High Court in Edinburgh, are two senior directors of the group, Sarah Burton and Chris Rose. The others are the campaigner Liz Pratt and the captain of the *MV Greenpeace John Castle*.

Gerry Doyle, a spokeswoman for the group, said last night: "This could threaten the very future of our organisation."

He said a "schedule of arrestment" had been issued from the Edinburgh Court of Sessions, seeking £1.4m from the group and the four members and "all moveable things in your bands belonging or obtaining to them".

It was addressed to the group's bank via a branch in

Scotland and a hearing for an interim interdict is due to be held before the court today.

The last five protesters left the installation on Sunday after police moved in to evict them. Greenpeace had begun landing activists on the rig on 9 August as it set out to begin testing work in the Foinaven field off the west coast of Scotland.

It was part of a campaign to highlight alleged climate change by the pressure group.

Chris Rose said: "BP made £1.5bn in its first six months of the year - it makes more in profit in 48 hours than Greenpeace receives income in a year. BP is trying to use its financial and legal muscle to crush defence of the environment. BP may try to take away our money and our supporters' money - but that will not make BP right and it will not absolve them of responsibility for their role in global environmental pollution."

"BP is leading the world in the wrong direction by opening up fossil fuels that the climate cannot sustain - but it would rather close down Greenpeace than... invest in solar power."

A spokesman for BP said: "We have begun proceedings against Greenpeace Ltd and other individuals in concern with unlawful activities on the rig and for the financial loss that we have suffered."

## Girl accused of lies over attack

Louise Jury

An English tourist allegedly attacked by five British soldiers in Cyprus broke down in tears yesterday when a defence lawyer said her "lies" could send an innocent man to prison.

Tasos Katsikides, defending one of the soldiers, Roger Bell, called Claire Harbour a liar on at least 10 occasions in cross-examination in a Cypriot court.

The five soldiers are charged with causing grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm to Ms Harbour and two other English holidaymakers. They all deny the charges.

Mr Katsikides said Ms Harbour, 22, started the incident outside an Ayia Napa disco earlier this month which left her boyfriend, Barry Ford, with cracked ribs, a broken wrist and a face wound, and Shane Bell with a fractured jaw.

Ms Harbour, of Lee Green, south-east London, burst into tears when Mr Katsikides claimed his client was the real victim. He said: "I put it to you that the accused was assaulted by you and Barry Ford, especially Barry who was out of control."

Ms Harbour said: "I was pulled by my hair while Barry was kicked and punched." But Mr Katsikides said Ms Harbour, a nursery nurse, was only worried about the £25,000 damages she is claiming as damages. Ms Harbour denied this. Mr Ford, a quantity surveyor, and Mr Bell, a car mechanic, both 23, are claiming similar amounts.

Another English tourist, Sasha Wright, 20, also gave evidence yesterday about the attack, in which her boyfriend Danny Lambert, 23, tried to intervene. She said eight men took it in turns to punch and kick Mr Ford on the floor.

The five accused are Roger Bell, 26, Tim Carter, 27, Steven Wolstencroft, 26, Steven Girvan, 20, and Stuart Spencer, 20, all from the 1st Battalion King's Regiment stationed at Dhekelia Garrison in Larnaca. The trial continues today.

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BP to sue  
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## Father, 11, hides as pregnant girl faces the music

Clare Garner

The families of an 11-year-old boy and the 15-year-old girl he made pregnant were last night struggling to come to terms with the fact that the youngsters were having a baby.

Theresa Stewart and her son, Sean, 11, now Britain's youngest known father, have gone into hiding while the mother-to-be, Emma Webster, 15, braved the media with her parents.

Emma, who lives next door to Sean in Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire, said she only found out how young he was when she told his mother she was expecting his baby. She was, she said, angry with Sean for giving her the impression that he was the same age as her. The fact

that he attends Margaret Beaufort Middle School in Risley had apparently not made her suspicious.

"It was not until I said I was pregnant to his mum and his mum turned around and said 'how can an 11-year-old be the father?' that I knew," she said. "I was shocked and I wanted to know why he had lied to me about his age."

But once Emma had overcome the initial shock, she adjusted to the idea of being pregnant and adopted the attitude: "It was my mistake, nothing can change it now." She has even chosen names for the baby, who will be her parents' first grandchild: Rebecca Jade if it is a girl and Ben Louis if it is a boy.

She is still seeing Sean, whom she has dated since November, and hopes he will give as much support as he can. Her parents have agreed to look after the baby, which is due in January, when she returns to Sharnbrook Upper School.

A spokeswoman for the Family Planning Association described the pregnancy as "an isolated case". She added: "I have never heard of an 11-year-old boy making a girl pregnant before." Records reveal the ages of young mothers, but not

fathers. In 1995, for example, there was one live birth to an 11-year-old and two to 12-year-olds. In most cases of a young girl becoming pregnant the father is either the same age or older.

It was only when Emma went to the doctor because she felt unwell that she discovered she was pregnant. "I thought I might have had a bug or something," she said. "The doctor said the symptoms I had made him think I was pregnant and the tests were positive."

Her mother, Shirley, 46, and father, Ray, 49, were devastated when they heard that she had been impregnated by an 11-year-old. First, they had thought the "mature-looking" Sean was 14 and, second, they had no idea that the pair were



Putting on a brave face: Schoolgirl Emma Webster, 15, from Sharnbrook in Bedfordshire, who is having a baby. The father is her 11-year-old next door neighbour, who has gone into hiding. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

having sex. "We didn't realise they were sleeping together until Emma dropped that little bombshell about the baby," said Mr Webster.

Six weeks on, they have adjusted to the news and are impressed by the way the youngsters have handled the situation. "I think they have done everything that could be asked of them," said Mrs Webster, who has, with her husband, discussed the baby with Sean's family.

Sean's mother, Theresa, is said to be unhappy with the situation. She reportedly said before disappearing to an unknown address: "He [Sean] is only a child. He doesn't really understand what is going on. This has put him under tremendous pressure. She [Emma] is much more mature and experienced than him, and I worry as any mother would."

Emma, who turns 16 in November, decided to keep the baby after much soul-searching and counselling. Her parents have agreed to take financial responsibility for the baby's upbringing, and are not expecting any contributions from Sean or his family. They do not, however, intend to hide the situation from the child, who would be told that Sean, who turns 12 in December, was the father.

Bedfordshire County Council said social workers were monitoring the situation. "We have been in contact with both sets of families and children involved and we are offering our support," said a spokesman.

## Urgent check-up for ailing Saudi nurses

Kim Sengupta and Steve Boggan

Two British nurses on trial for murder in Saudi Arabia are to receive urgent medical treatment as signs grow that they have already been found guilty of killing an Australian colleague.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that the Saudi authorities have agreed to a Foreign Office request for Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan to be seen by a British doctor because of their deteriorating physical and mental condition.

However, while hopes were raised that their "harsh and spartan" treatment at a women's prison in Dammam might improve, their legal position remained confused. Their lawyers were told last week that their case had been referred to a higher court, the Cassation Court, a form of appeal court, but they were not told why and they have not been told whether the Saudi court has reached a verdict.

Ms Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, and 31-year-old Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, are said to be suffering from a number of ailments because of their incarceration in poor conditions since December. They were arrested after Yvonne Gilford, 55, was found stabbed to death at the King Fahd medical complex at Dhahran.

Informed sources state that the medical checks may be the precursor to the two women being freed following a show of clemency by the Saudi monarch.

If they have been found guilty of murder then the two women face possible death by behead-



Fears are growing for the health of Lucille McLauchlan (above) and Deborah Parry



ing, whereas another verdict, approximating to manslaughter under British law, would carry a sentence of around five years. However, authorities in Riyadh, according to a senior source, are desperately keen to avoid capital punishment. A jail sentence could lead to the women being freed on medical grounds to receive treatment in Britain.

At the moment, however, neither their lawyers nor the Foreign Office know why their case has been referred to the Cassation Court.

Rodger Fannone, representing Miss Parry, said: "It could be because the court has found them guilty, moving the case automatically one step along the process, or it could be that the judges have referred the case for clarification on a point of law."

"Neither we nor the Foreign Office have been informed of a verdict."

If the case has been referred for clarification, the most likely reason is for the higher court, which is presided over by five judges, to examine an Australian court ruling on the case. Under Saudi law, all members of a victim's family have the right to call for the death penalty, but they must be unanimous.

The Australian court ruled two weeks ago that Ms Gilford's mother may not be well enough to make such a decision, as she is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease. That means that calls for the death penalty by Ms Gilford's brother, Frank, may not be enough in themselves for the court to allow the women to be beheaded.

Members of the charged nurses' families met lawyers and Foreign Office officials in Manchester yesterday but a Foreign Office spokesman said they had no more information about the reason for the referral to the Cassation Court.

A spokeswoman for the Saudi embassy said she was unable to confirm or deny that the case had been referred to the Cassation Court. Before the women can be executed, the case must elude to a third court, the Higher Judicial Council, before being put before King Fahd for his approval. The whole process could take up to two years.

## Camelot's rival gets the green light

Louise Jury

A rival numbers game to the National Lottery is legal, a court ruled yesterday, after Camelot, the lottery organisers, brought a private prosecution to test the law.

Magistrates at Bow Street Court, London, said the "49s" game, run by Britain's biggest bookmakers, was a fixed-odds bet and not a lottery, and should therefore be allowed to continue.

The decision confirmed advice from the Crown Prosecution Service that the game did not contravene the 1976 Lotteries and Amusements Act.

But spokeswoman for Camelot, Joanna Manning-Cooper, said the company was disappointed and intended to appeal. "This is just the first stage in the process of clarifying," she added.

The game was introduced in December last year by Lad-

brokes, William Hill and Coral after all bookies reported severe losses because of competition from the National Lottery. Punters bet at fixed odds on whether up to five numbered balls will be among six chosen at random by a machine.

Camelot said it wanted to clarify whether a game very similar to the lottery should be allowed to draw the public - and therefore profits - away from the lottery and the good causes it funds.

But Ronald Bartle, stipendiary magistrate, said: "The predominant aspects of 49s are of betting and not a lottery."

He rejected Camelot's claims that legal costs should be met from the public purse. The company had claimed it was trying to clarify a legal principle.

Mr Bartle said: "I can't help coming to the view that this case was essentially about a commercial matter, fundamentally whether betting shops should be

allowed to draw punters away from Camelot. I don't think that this type of action should be financed by the taxpayer."

Camelot had previously failed to persuade the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General to investigate the game. Customs and Excise and the Gaming Board had also advised that no public prosecution should be launched.

Mr Bartle ordered Camelot to pay the bookmakers' costs of £305,000, as well as their own legal costs, which he indicated would match those of the bookmakers. He said his ruling on costs was influenced by Camelot's decision to bring a prosecution against expert advice.

Afterwards, John Brown, managing director of William Hill and chairman of 49s Ltd, said he was delighted. "49s has been of some help to the book-making industry in helping us to reduce the damage done to our business by the lottery."



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## news

# McAlpine's Fusiliers are on the march back to the old country lured by higher wages

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## A boom in the Irish building trade has brought reverse migration

Alan Murdoch  
Dublin  
Louise Hancock and  
Lucy McDonald  
London

Building sites in Britain face an acute shortage of skilled labour as the Irish army of "McAlpine's Fusiliers" is lured home by higher wages in Ireland's booming construction sector.

The reverse migration, of Irish building workers who would traditionally have looked to this side of the Irish Sea for work, is now set to accelerate.

Official figures published yesterday indicate that the Irish construction boom will run until at least 2003 following a 50 per cent surge in output between 1994 and 1996. Not for nothing is Dublin known as "Crane City".

The move back across the Irish Sea has been encouraged by Dublin-based firms in recent months through an advertising campaign funded by their employers' association in Britain's Irish publications. The move drew 3,000 responses.

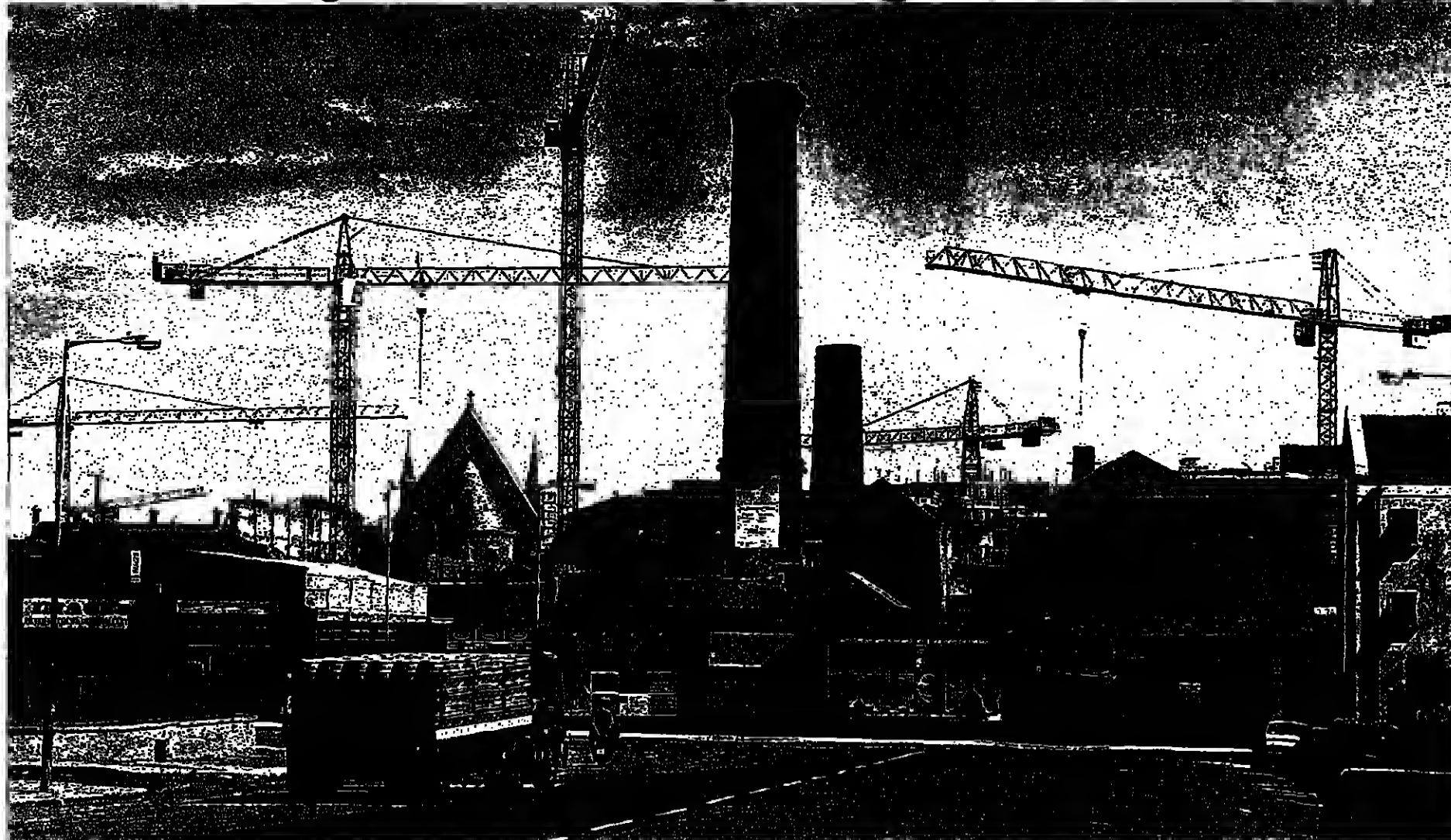
The Irish Republic's environment minister, Noel Dempsey, said on-site employment in Ireland jumped dra-

matically from 71,000 two years ago to about 93,000 in April this year. He said "output growth was unprecedented in the history of the state, and unmatched in any other EU member". He envisages that the on-site jobs total would pass 100,000 in 2000.

Construction sources said the projections were, if anything, too cautious, putting this year's output rise at 8 per cent when the real figure may come closer to 10 per cent.

The boom is across a range of areas, from major office projects, new hotels, increased council house building, and a surge in new private housing prompted by the Republic's sustained period of low interest rates (underpinned by one year of wage accords with unions) and rising employment. More than £500m has been invested in new city-centre apartment blocks since the late 1980s. Road-building has had several years of European Union-assisted expansion.

The figures from the Irish Department of Environment also point to strong construction performance in 1996 and 1997, though slightly below this year's exceptional growth.



Reach for the sky: Dublin's skyline is dotted with cranes as a result of its building boom. Above left: An advert in a British-based Irish newspaper. Main photograph: Cyril Byrne

Irish navvies have long been an institution on building sites in the South of England, with family networks helping find work for the steady flow of migrants over the decades.

London's Irish builders entered the national culture with songs in their honour, notably the rousing "McAlpine's Fusiliers," sung by Ronnie Drew and The Dubliners.

However, the flow of Irish labour out of Britain, including skilled bricklayers, plasterers and load movers, has accounted for about 2,000 of the extra 8,000 employed in building in Ireland this year compared with 1996, according to Liam Kelleher, director-general of Ire-

land's Construction Industry Federation. "That's just the contracting [building] side, and doesn't include architects and engineers, surveyors, estimators, project planners and IT staff, for whom employment has increased also," Mr Kelleher said. They are also being targeted in Britain by Irish firms.

"The outlook is good. People who emigrated in during the boom years in the UK in the Eighties, are now contemplating returning when they're getting married and having kids."

That past trend means the typical Irish worker in Britain is likely to be slightly older than those who took site work during the German boom, after the

Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

An estimated 500,000 workers left the British construction sector following the end of the Eighties boom. The precise numbers of returned Irish emigrants among that total is hard to determine. Many projects are short-term and may not involve permanent moves back.

Neglect of training in Ireland during the past 10 to 15 years has left many unemployed with in Ireland unqualified to take up current vacancies, according to Paddy O'Shaughnessy of the Dublin-based Building and Allied Trades Union.

He claimed that Irish builders advertising in Britain "was a hit of a gimmick, as we found that,

while the industry was in a good state, much against the perception of an acute skills shortage there was actually a surplus of bricklayers in the Dublin area early this year."

Mr O'Shaughnessy said the appearance of English-based workers in Dublin, some with only slight family connections, had occurred only once before during the Irish boom in the late Seventies. "Sixties, one of the highest contractors here, recruited a lot of bricklayers in the North-west of England. The [Irish] employers simply haven't been recruiting enough young people in the trades of bricklaying and plastering."

In Dublin, under productiv-

ity-related terms, those trades can now earn rates of £500 a week, slightly ahead of British levels - £11 an hour for bricklayers against £9.50 an hour in Britain.

John Ring, business manager of Luton-based sub-contractors Murtagh, said: "People from all over the UK are going over to Ireland for the money and quality of life. There is a phenomenal amount of building work going on at the moment, partly funded by the EU, particularly roads."

"From 1996 we noticed ads in *Construction News* and the [London] *Evening Standard* asking people to return to Ireland. It has caused a problem here

without a doubt. The construction industry is out of the recession and apprenticeships were cut during the recession, therefore we don't have the new workers coming through, but now we don't have labour to accommodate this. Plus, workers are heading to Germany."

Keith Banbury, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Building, said the boom economy in Dublin has meant that "the construction skill trades are getting better than average money in Dublin at the moment. That is having a knock-on effect in terms of skill shortages in the UK mainland. People will go where the money is."

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Thursday 28 August	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (AGRICULTURE)
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Wednesday 3 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)
Sunday 7 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (HUMANITIES)
Wednesday 10 September	LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT (GENERAL)
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THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT

كافا من ألاحظ



# Major pitches in to cricket academy row

Steve Boggan

John Major joined in the row over Labour's decision to exclude cricket from its planned academy of sporting excellence yesterday, describing the move as "a huge error" that could lead to the game being ambushed by satellite television.

The former prime minister spoke out with the support of Conservative Central Office after returning from holiday in France and reading of the plans with dismay.

Mr Major, a devoted and knowledgeable cricket fan, issued a statement in which he said Labour's plans for the £100m centre to concentrate on Olympic and non-commercial sports instead of rugby, cricket and football showed how little the Government knew about the country's sporting heritage.

Yesterday, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, met Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the English Cricket Board, in an attempt to defuse what is growing into a major embarrassment for the Government. Lord MacLaurin had challenged Mr Smith to remove cricket from

the protected list of sports that must remain on terrestrial television if it was to be excluded from the academy. That way, cricket could afford to fund its own academy, he said.

On the BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Mr Smith refused to rule out that option, causing consternation among armchair cricket fans who do not have satellite dishes and leading some observers to question Tony Blair's continuing cosy relationship with Rupert Murdoch, owner of the BSkyB satellite television company.

In his statement, Mr Major said: "The Labour Government have made a huge error in excluding cricket, rugby and football. They should admit their mistake now and reverse the policy before it makes a mockery of our nation's sporting ambitions."

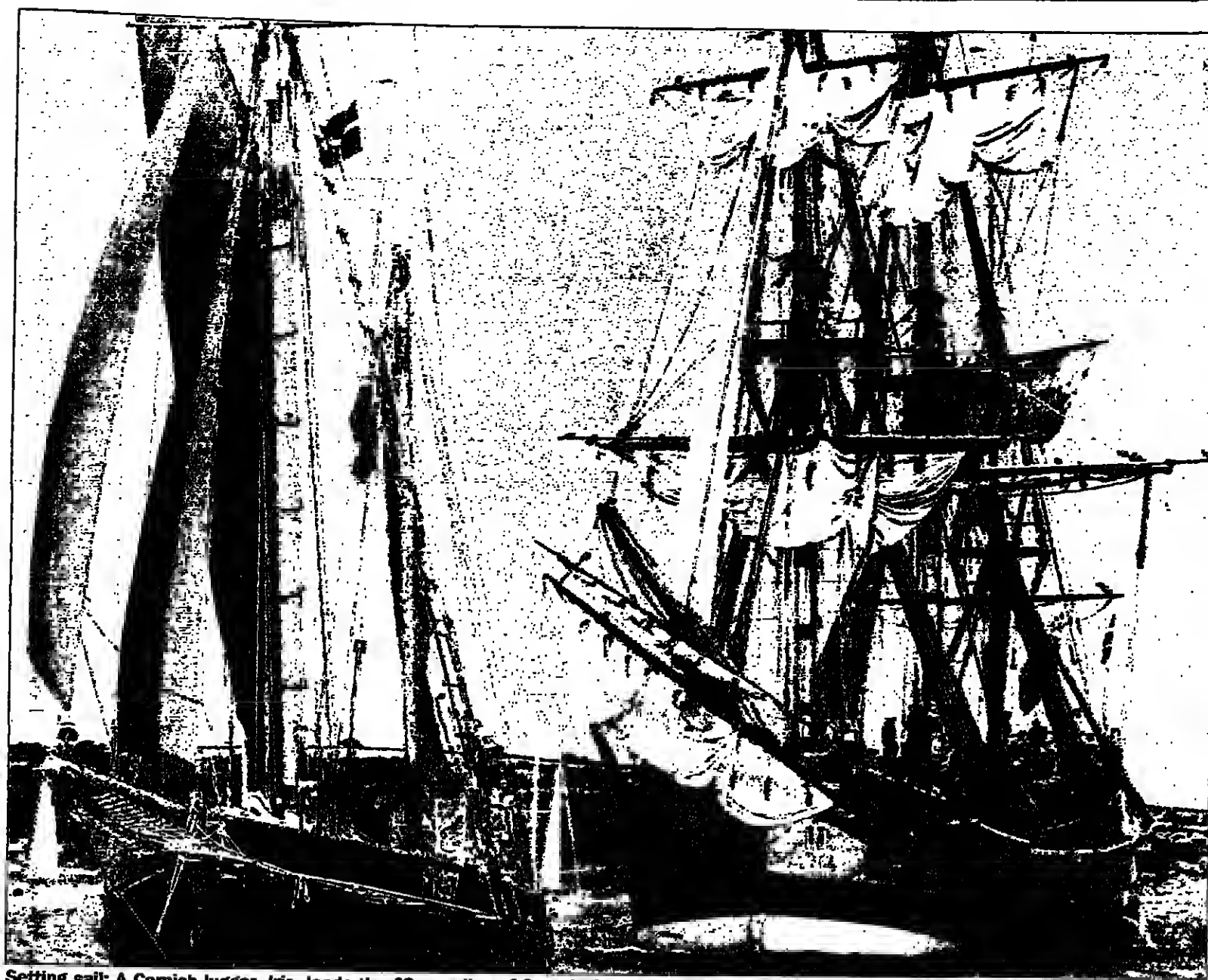
"What the Labour Government has done is to take out those sports which are at the heart of the nation. The pride that the whole nation feels over the success of the British Lions and our teams at Euro 96 should be recognised through a place in the sporting academy."

Lord MacLaurin, Mr Smith said cricketers would be allowed to use some of the academy's facilities – such as sports science and medicine – and he invited the English Cricket Board to apply for lottery money to fund its own academy. The ECB had already published blueprints for a centre of excellence.

Mr Major, however, was not impressed. "The offer of future lottery money is simply a figleaf to cover their embarrassment at excluding this sport from the academy," he said.

After his meeting with the ECB, Mr Smith said he planned to meet the authorities again with the English Sports Council to discuss the cricket academy plans forward. "The board have also promised to let me have their views on the review of the current list of sporting events made available for general free to air broadcast," he said. "We are both agreed that a proper balance has to be struck between the interests of television viewers who want to see world-class cricket and the interests of cricket as a game in securing its fair share of its financial potential."

Sport and nationalism, page 15



Setting sail: A Cornish lugger, *Iris*, leads the £8m replica of Captain James Cook's ship, *Endeavour*, out of Falmouth harbour yesterday bound for Plymouth. The ship is touring Britain and has sailed from Captain Cook's birthplace in the North-east

Photograph: Paul Arniger

## Children promised new era in help for learning problems

Health service chiefs yesterday announced a unique one-stop treatment centre for children with learning difficulties.

From next month, youngsters with dyslexia and dyspraxia will, for the first time, be able to receive all their health and educational care under one roof.

Experts hope the opening of The Discovery Centre in Cardiff, funded by the private health care company Healthcall, will mark the start of a new era of improved services for these children and their families.

Up to 10 per cent of children in the United Kingdom suffer from dyspraxia or "clumsy child disorder" which causes problems in language, perception and thought. However, the level of awareness of the condition still remains low.

One in 25 people is dyslexic

– a difficulty in reading and spelling caused by a condition of the brain – and this is more common in boys than girls.

In the future, the company plans to open a network of centres around Britain.

Dr Amanda Kirby, director of The Discovery Centre, said: "The launch of The Discovery

Centre, the first of its kind, is in response to an acute shortage of service provision for those who encounter special learning difficulties.

"We believe that a one-stop shop for assessment, treatment and support for children, adolescents and parents is long overdue."

Healthcall decided to set up the centre in a bid to boost the support and help available for children with learning difficulties and their families.

Treatment can be gained

through self-referral, or GPs can buy the service for their patients.

Currently, children with learning difficulties can have treatment in a variety of different settings and some have to travel long distances to get the care they need.

At the centre, a team of educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, behavioural optometrists, physiotherapists and specialist teachers will work together to provide assessment and treatment.

So far, six staff have been signed up but Dr Kirby expects that number to rise once the centre is up and running.

She said: "We have had a lot of calls already from parents of children with learning difficulties who are interested in bringing them to the centre."

## Welsh rivals squabble over campaign cash

Tony Heath

Rival groups in the Welsh devolution campaigns yesterday turned their attention to financial matters as disagreements surfaced over the amount of money being raised and spent by the "Yes" and "No" camps.

The umbrella "Say Yes For

Wales" campaign has already raised £90,000. Yesterday the campaign took space in the Cardiff-based *Western Mail* to appeal for more. Apart from a £20,000 grant from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust to meet set-up costs, the campaign has relied on contributions from members of the public.

The "No" campaign is backed by the millionaire Sir Julian Hodge from his home in Jersey. Its spokesman, Matthew Gunther-Bushell, declined to reveal the extent of Sir Julian's generosity. "We have received a modest contribution from him. Full accounts will be published after the 18 September referendum," he said.

Leighton Andrews, for the "Yes" campaign, which, like its rival, receives no public funding, said it appeared that the "No" camp's benefactor was spending freely. "We are seeking an additional £20,000 to counter the propaganda that is coming out. We do not have a wealthy tax exile to bankroll our efforts to bring greater democracy to Wales," he said.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister, was on the campaign trail again yesterday. He toured the South Wales valleys, visiting Blackwood, Newbridge and Pontypool to build on what he described as the success of a foray in the Rhondda last week.

"People have a chance to help defeat the Tories for a second time and win a 'Yes' vote next month," the minister said.

In North Wales, Jeff Rooker forsook his Birmingham Perry Barr constituency to team up with Martyn Jones, the MP for Clwyd South. They spent some of their time in Llangollen where at this time of the year tourists outnumber the local people.

Mr Jones said: "An assembly will make sure that North Wales is not neglected as it was by previous governments."

### DAILY POEM

To Christ

By Maureen Sangster

Oh Christ, ye're juist a meenister  
ye're nae bloody esse tae me  
Ye winna come an mak  
ma mither's tea

a stuck up little mannie  
bawkin oot yer words o' Love  
for God's sake, come doon tae earth  
an wear the oven glove

fit wye is this, Messiah,  
that I maun lose ma life  
carin for ma mither  
fan ma hrither's got - a wife?

if ye'd come roon on Sunday  
gie me a helpin hand  
one shot o' handlin the commode  
an you wid understand

ma life is juist a constant roon  
o' meals and bloody peels  
if the hand o' God is in this, Christ,  
it's a mystery nae revealed

This poem comes from *Out of the Urn*, a first collection by Maureen Sangster, who was born in Aberdeen, taught in Nigeria and now lives in Edinburgh. It is published by Scottish Cultural Press at £4.95.



# Embarrassed Australia tries to calm South Pacific storm

Robert Milliken  
Sydney

As Alexander Downer, Australia's Foreign Minister, embarked on a visit to the South Pacific, his mandarins at home were preparing to discipline two officials yesterday over the publication of a highly secret government document whose insulting comments about Australia's Pacific neighbours, including New Zealand, have severely embarrassed Canberra.

Prepared by officials in the capital, drawing on Australia's intelligence agencies and marked "top secret", the document described some Pacific island nation political leaders as "crooks", "drunks" and "lickspittles", and made disparaging comments

about New Zealand's role and influence in the Pacific region.

The document was drawn up as a confidential briefing paper for Australian ministers attending a conference, in northern Queensland last month, of finance ministers from member countries of the South Pacific Forum. It has so infuriated Fiji that the country's new Foreign Minister, Berenado Vunibobo, announced before Mr Downer's departure for the Pacific last Saturday that he would refuse to receive him. The document made uncomplimentary remarks about Mr Vunibobo personally and about his political style.

Mr Vunibobo relented only after pressure from Sitriveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji. Ten years after leaving the

Commonwealth, Fiji is seeking re-admission at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh in October. Its acceptance requires unanimous endorsement from Commonwealth members. Australia and New Zealand have signalled their willingness to support Fiji's re-admission, and Fiji is anxious not to upset its chances by risking a further diplomatic breach.

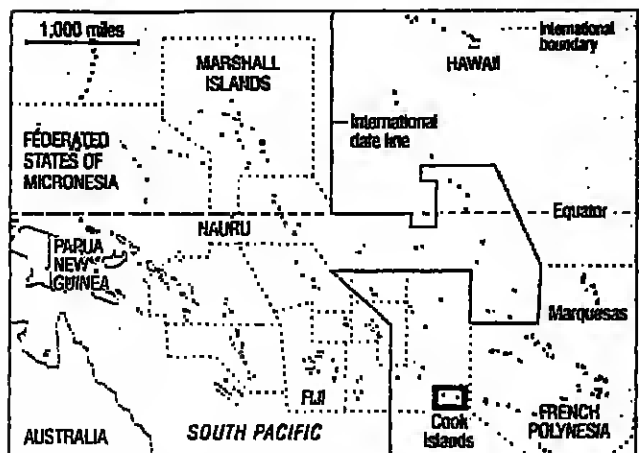
Mr Downer, though, will be welcomed in Suva, the Fiji capital, through gritted teeth. Asked about the row before he left Australia at the weekend, he said: "[Mr Vunibobo] wants to put the whole issue of the South Pacific documents behind him and that is certainly the view of the Prime Minister of Fiji. We are delighted that the Fiji government is taking that constructive view, and I think that all goes very well for my visit."

The document's contents appeared in Australian newspapers after three journalists arrived to register at the July conference in Cairns. When an official went to obtain their media passes, the journalists noticed documents on the table and picked them up, assuming they were press releases.

The document asserted that New Zealand wanted "to differentiate itself from Australia" and "to act in ways which complicate Australian diplomacy". It added that "many officials and politicians in Wellington (the capital) still like to believe that New Zealand, because of its smaller size, [and] links to Polynesia ... is part of the Pacific in a way that Australia is not".

The Marshall Islands, acting chairman of the forum, and the Federated States of Micronesia were headlined as "Impudent Micronesians". The Cook Islands and Nauru were in a category called "Bottom of the [economic] heap". Papua New Guinea, Australia's northern neighbour, was lumped with two other nations under a heading "Melanesian Mayhem".

The decision to discipline the Canberra officials came after an inquiry into the affair headed by Australia's inspector-general of intelligence and security. The Australian press has described the affair as Australia's most serious security blunder in years.



## Plea to join France falls on deaf ears

Papeete (Reuters) — Following the lead of unhappy residents of the Comoros group, some dissatisfied denizens of French Polynesia are now seeking closer ties to France for their island.

Lucien Kimitete, mayor of the South Pacific island of Nuku Hiva, urged Paris at the weekend to transform the Marquesas Islands, part of the semi-autonomous French Polynesia, into a full-fledged part of France as an overseas department.

"Polynesia's autonomous status does not inspire our confidence. There is a risk, in our eyes, that the territory could become independent," Mr Kimitete told

Jean-Jack Queyranne, French junior minister for overseas territories. But Mr Queyranne flatly ruled out departmental status for Nuku Hiva.

Support for complete independence from France is confined to a vocal minority in French Polynesia, which is heavily dependent on French financial support. Department status would mean significantly more aid for the island group.

Two of the three Indian Ocean islands of the Islamic Republic of Comoros have recently declared their independence from the republic and asked to return to French rule.

Peter Popham takes a literary ride into Eastern culture with an old India hand



Staying on: Nigel Hankin, who has lived in India since 1945, riding in a rickshaw in Old Delhi and, below, with a copy of his book, *Hanklyn-Janklyn*, a glossary and cultural discourse on the subcontinent, which is in its third edition. Photographs: Andrew Buerman

## Going doolally in Delhi with a cushy number, a glass of simkin and a plate of rumble tumble

Fifty years after Independence, the human relics of the British Raj, those who have hung on in India ever since, are few.

For all its dazzling human variety, India had no natural space for permanent white residents: their connection to the colonial power was so close that, once the Raj had gone, most British people soon followed. The only group with an ostensibly closer bond to the country, the Anglo-Indians, also migrated en masse after Independence, many of them to Australia.

So Nigel Hankin, who has been living in Delhi since 1945, is an exceptional figure. A tall, bony, immensely vigorous man, Hankin was born in Sussex in 1920. He spent the war in the Army in Britain and North Africa, and first arrived in India in July 1945, en route to Burma. The war ended before he could get there, however, and instead he settled in Delhi, working for 10 years in private business, and for the subsequent 20 in the British High Commission, "which is near enough Britain", he says.

"Through all those formative years I was completely sheltered from India." But, one day, during his years at the High Commission, a seed was planted. A doctor, Sidney Hamilton, newly arrived in Delhi to work at the High Commission, gave Hankin a list of some 20 words which he had encountered in Delhi's English newspapers: what did they mean?

"His problem," Hankin writes in the Preface of his book *Hanklyn-Janklyn*, which has just been published in its third edition, "was nothing new: almost 150 years ago Sir Charles Napier had a similar difficulty: '1844, Headquarters, Kurrachee, 12th February."

The Governor unfortunately does not understand Hindostanee, nor Persian, nor Mahratia, nor any other eastern dialect. He, therefore, will feel particularly obliged to ... officers ... to indite their various papers in English, larded with as small a portion of the to him unknown tongues as they conveniently can, instead of those he generally receives - namely Hindostanee larded with occasional words in English."

Hankin set out to answer Dr Hamilton's questions, and ended up with a life's work. *Hanklyn-Janklyn*, inspired by Sir Henry Yule's mid-Victorian *Hobson-Jobson*, is a glossary of words, some Hindi or Urdu, some English, some hybrids, some Indian coinages, which the British visitor will meet if he stays long enough.

For this purpose the book is



'In every respect the book is the essential companion for a griffin (a newly arrived European unused to the ways of the East)'

invaluable. Non-English terms spatter the pages of India's English newspapers. Entire front-page stories can hinge on a term that leaves the visitor completely blank: the application by Bihar's notoriously corrupt chief minister, Laloo Yadav, for "anticipatory bail", for example. Hankin gets to the meat of the matter at once. "A provision unique in the world's judicial codes, whereby in anticipation of a criminal accusation, a person may apply to a court for bail:

if granted and the charge is made, he will be exempt from police custody."

But *Hanklyn-Janklyn* is much more than just a glossary. Hankin is not an academic, and is answerable to no one but himself, and his book is a picaresque collection of rambles through the British experience of the subcontinent. So we learn about the thugs, the gangs of brigands whose deeds of ritual strangulation horrified Victorian readers, and who were put down through the efforts of Major

General Sir William Sleeman. But we also learn that one village in the heart of Thug country renamed itself Sleemanabad in gratitude, and that as recently as 1989 (that was still its name, Hankin tells us the origin of pariah - an outcast group of drummers in the south - but also describes the pariah-kite, "the bazaar-scavenging raptor and scourge of New Delhi's winter garden luncheon parties".

Hankin has mined a fabulously rich seam. He tells us about the origins of chit, loofah, hungalaw and kedgeriee. He takes us through such miseries of the subcontinent as the "brainfever bird", the hawk cuckoo "whose loud screaming call, said by the British to be 'brain-fever, brain-fever' is repeated all day ... during the hot weather", and the bandicoot, the "large and destructive rat ... almost a metre in length, which can get through a brick wall" and "doolally" from the place above Bombay where "those due for repatriation on medical grounds awaited the troopship", and which became British soldier slang for insanity. But he also gives us nice words: cushy, for example, from the Urdu khush, meaning "happy", rumble tumble (scrambled eggs) and simkin (Indian servants' pronunciation of "champagne").

Long residence here has left Hankin not jaded but scrupulously fair: he even has a good word for the pi-dogs that stalk around this country: "if cared for, loyal, hardy and excellent as a watch-dog."

In every respect, *Hanklyn-Janklyn* is the essential companion for a griffin. ("A newly arrived European unused to the ways of the East"). Hankin also conducts fascinating tours around Delhi, but if you can't enjoy one of those, the book is a good second best.

The only thing wrong with the book, in fact, is that it is published by Banyan Books in Delhi - a problem for potential readers in Britain. But it is even more of a problem for Hankin himself, who says that he has not received a statement or a single paise ("the smallest unit of today's currency") in royalties from the company for the second edition (published 1994, and now sold out).

Poicy ("mean, misery") is the only word for this behaviour. Since a bandh ("total shut-down of work") is probably out of the question, a gherao ("the coercion of an official by so encircling his office with a cordon of workers that he is unable to leave") is probably in order. Unfortunately there are not enough British people left in Delhi to carry it out.

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# Eight killed as rockets bombard S Lebanon

Beirut — It was the bloodiest day since the Israeli massacre at Qana 16 months ago: a young man and his sister blown apart by a bomb — almost certainly left by the Hizbollah — and then, within two hours, the shelling and slaughter of six civilians and the wounding of another 44 in Lebanon's second city of Sidon by members of Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia. By nightfall yesterday — after promises of revenge from the Hizbollah's south Lebanon commander — Katyusha rockets were exploding across the "capital" of Israel's occupation zone in Marayoun and in the mountain town of Jezzine, where another civilian was reported killed.

The Israelis had vainly tried to shrug off responsibility for the Sidon killings, claiming that their troops were not involved in the artillery bombardment of the city. The mortar shells that crashed onto the busy afternoon shopping streets, however, were fired by the SLA, which is commanded, paid, uniformed and armed by the Israelis. That the militia's discipline long ago crumbled does not — as the Lebanese were pointing out last night — absolve Israel of responsibility for the SLA's actions. The shells they directed at Sidon were proximity rounds, designed to cause amputation wounds, and were of the same type as those fired into the refugees at Qana by the Israeli army last year.

There was ample reason to expect SLA retaliation yesterday. The couple killed earlier — 16-year-old Jean Nasr and his 12-year-old sister — were the children of a senior SLA officer, Assad Nasr, who was himself blown up this year by the Hizbollah in Jezzine. Although the roadside bomb had probably been planted days ago, the Hizbollah were almost certainly responsible.

Visiting the wards of three hospitals in Sidon where at least 36 civilians were being treated for wounds, Sheikh Nabil Qaouk, the Hizbollah's commander in southern Lebanon, made it all too clear what would follow the Sidon deaths. "Either we have security on both sides or we have none," he said angrily. "The resistance will not be

## Robert Fisk on Hizbollah's war with Israel's proxy army

And so, after the briefest of ceasefires, southern Lebanon was yesterday again on the edge of open war. The five-power truce committee, which met last week to condemn both Israel and the Hizbollah for recent ceasefire violations, is already collapsing amid increasing acrimony. At its latest meeting, General David Tzur, the Israeli delegate, approached General Adnan Balloul, the Syrian representative, with a suggestion that the United States and French delegates to the committee should be ignored in resolving further problems. General Balloul exploded in anger and threatened to walk out of the committee — a step only avoided after Dennis Ross, President Bill Clinton's senior Middle East negotiator, apparently pleaded with Mr Balloul on the telephone to remain in his seat.

The SLA has been suffering increasing reverses over the past six months. Up to one-third of its militia have deserted to the Beirut government or to the Hizbollah guerrilla movement while its existing ranks are packed with informers. In some military positions, the SLA are even forbidden to leave their fortresses by the Hizbollah — so that only Israeli occupation troops should fall victim to mortar attacks. The SLA's actions yesterday, however, are going to draw the Israelis back into the war since no one, least of all the Hizbollah, is going to believe that the Israelis do not control their own proxy militia.



Bloody revenge: A man and his mother running to escape the shelling of Sidon by Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army yesterday. At least eight shells hit the city, killing six people and wounding 44. Photograph: Mohamed Zatar/AP

## Netanyahu releases withheld tax revenue

Eric Silver  
Jerusalem

Having resisted for three weeks, the Palestinians were unappeased yesterday by a first chunk of carrot tossed their way by Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli Prime Minister announced that his Government was releasing 30 per cent of the tax revenues withheld from Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority since the 30 July suicide bombing which killed 14 Israeli civilians in a Jerusalem market. The ban on up to 100,000 Palestinian day labourers crossing to Israel remains in force, however.

Israel collects about \$500m a year in VAT, income and other taxes on Mr Arafat's behalf. This covers about 55 per cent of his budget for the two million Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An Israeli statement said yesterday the decision was reached following the Palestinians' "partial" co-operation in investigating the bombing and their swift arrest of three car thieves who murdered an Israeli taxi driver last week. The Palestinians have also given Israel samples from a Hamas bomb factory uncovered near Jerusalem. Israeli forensic scientists are now checking whether the explosives were the same as those used in the market attack.

Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian Cabinet Minister, accused Mr Netanyahu of continuing to behave like an occupying power. "We are still demanding the release of all the funds and an end to the closure," she said. "These are Palestinian funds. They cannot use our money as a means of intimidation and coercion."

The Israelis insist, however, that the threat of terrorism leaves them with no choice. "We have to fight terror," Moshe Fogel, a government spokesman, said. "We expect the same of the Palestinian authority. At the first sign of co-operation, we have responded in kind."

The Israeli insurance industry is waiting, meanwhile, to see whether co-operation in combating the cross-border trade in stolen cars will continue. The Insurance Agents' Association reported yesterday that 21,448 cars were stolen in the last six months, a 29 per cent increase on 1996. The Association's executive director, Moshe Ben-Eliezer, estimates that thieves will have taken 45,000 vehicles by the year-end.

## significant shorts

### Yeltsin ready to negotiate Chechen autonomy

Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov said yesterday that he was pleased with talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and said he had high hopes of negotiating formal independence for his breakaway republic.

"Today I saw in Boris Nikolayevich a man who is really aware of the need to solve the problems of the last 400 years," Mr Maskhadov said. Russian news agencies earlier quoted Mr Yeltsin as saying he was ready to negotiate a long-term political deal with Chechnya, suggesting wide-reaching autonomy along the lines of that granted in 1994 to Tatarstan, a mainly Moslem republic, like Chechnya, on the Volga River in central Russia. Reuters — Moscow

### Armed gangs attack in Freetown

Clashes broke out between civilians and hundreds of former rebel fighters who armed themselves with machetes, grenades and automatic rifles to prevent a march in the Sierra Leone capital by opponents of a May coup. Civilians fled to escape the gangs who now call themselves the People's Army and work alongside junta soldiers and police. There were no immediate reports of casualties, but many people were beaten, kicked and thrown into military vehicles. AP — Freetown

### False Algerian police kill family

A group of armed men disguised as policemen set up a false roadblock, then killed a family of seven in western Algeria. No one claimed responsibility for the attack near Oran, but it bore the hallmarks of Islamic militants. Witnesses said the killers had put a note on the chest of one of the victims, warning of "new acts of punishment against the impious ones". AP — Algiers

### Cambodia's king says he'll stay

Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk said he had decided not to abdicate, but also vowed not to return to the political arena in his troubled nation. "After having weighed the pros and cons for many nights, I decide to remain as king for some time longer," he said. Opponents of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who seized power last month, had called for Sihanouk to abdicate. Reuters — Peking

### Kenya death toll rises to 35

The bodies of two Kenyan policemen were found in a hospital mortuary south of Mombasa, raising the death toll to at least 35 since last Wednesday, hospital sources said. The Kenya Tourist Board said no foreign tourists had been involved in the violence. Reuters — Mombasa

### Vietnamese jail rebel soldier

A former South Vietnamese soldier who continued to fight the Communists long after the fall of Saigon in 1975 has been sentenced to 10 years in prison. The People's Court in Vung Tau sentenced Nguyen Long Si, arrested last September, for "committing activities aimed at overthrowing the People's government". AP — Hanoi

### Dresses are everyone's right

Men should be able to dress as women and walk the streets of the Australian state of Tasmania without fear of arrest, according to a review of the island's 60-year-old dress laws. The Tasmanian law reform review has also recommended unbridled operation for fortune tellers and beggars. But throwing nightsoil into a river or injuring a homing pigeon will remain offences. Reuters — Sydney

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## obituaries / gazette

## David Allford

In an age when famous architects become superstars, it is easy to forget that media personalities are unreliable indicators of architectural abilities. David Allford was not a media personality – although a leading architectural journalist remembers him “growing splendidly into the microphone” in a recent radio broadcast when they were both panellists – yet most people in this country have probably experienced a building where his hand can be detected. Among them are Gatwick Airport, several large hospitals including St Thomas' in London and Hull Royal Infirmary, numerous comprehensive schools and offices. Warwick University and Cole Brothers department store in his home town of Sheffield.

The Welfare State posed new problems for architects. Mass housing, hospitals where health-care was a right rather than a luxury or a charitable gift, comprehensive schools, new universities and novel building types like airports were all unfamiliar territory. Each demanded a new image, just as much as they needed new patterns of organisation. Allford's achievement as an architect was to identify strands in modernist architecture whose forms lent themselves to new functions and to sophisticated and innovative aesthetic expression.

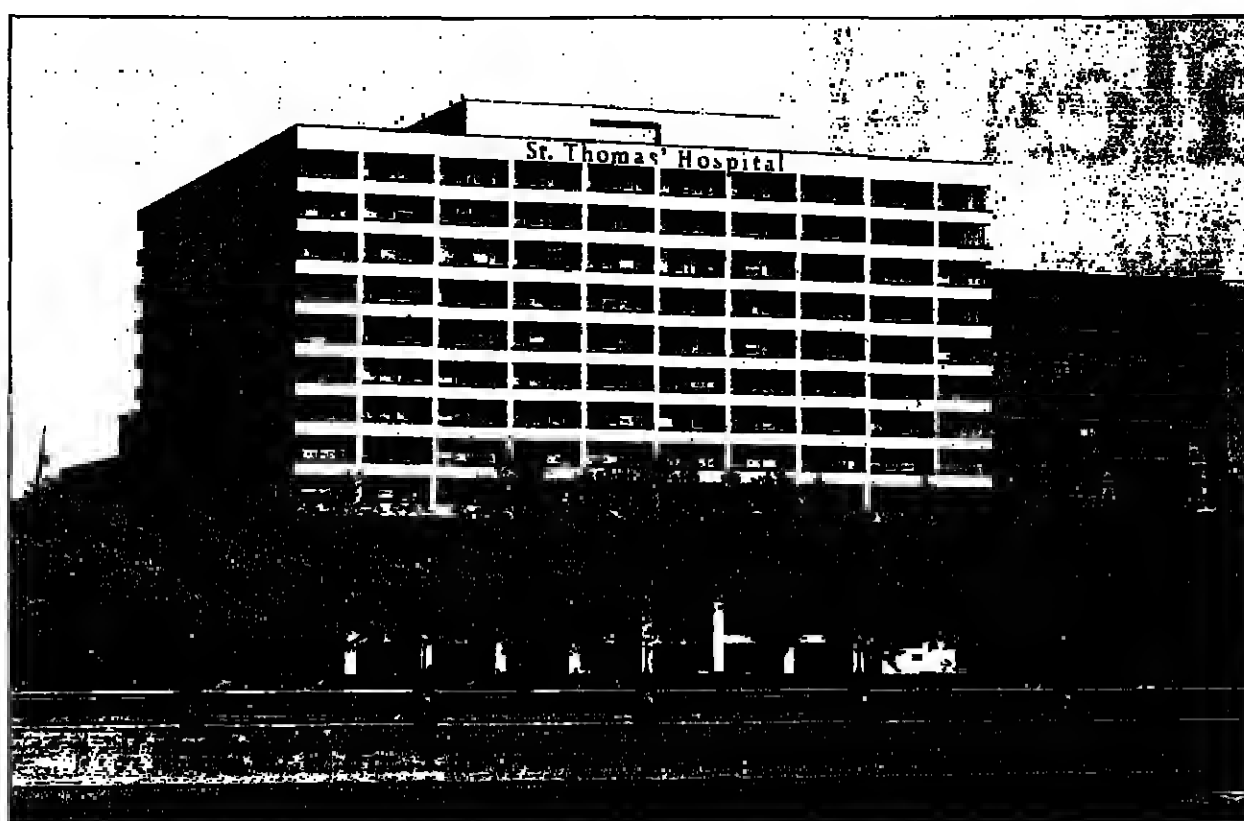
Like many architects of his generation, Allford was introduced to the clean, white forms of modern architecture, and its Utopian promise of a better society, through F.R.S. Yorke's book *The Modern House*, first published in 1934. When he graduated from Sheffield University in 1952, he found a job in the firm Yorke had founded

eight years earlier with the brilliant though lugubrious Czech émigré Eugene Rosenberg and the summer-natured Anglo-Finn Cyril Strutt-Mardall. Yorke himself had been a member of the architectural avant-garde since the 1930s, but also had something of the English yeoman about him, enjoying country pursuits and breeding prize-winning cattle.

Allford remained all his career at Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall, or YRM, as the firm was later known, becoming a partner in 1958, senior partner in 1975 and chairman on its flotation in 1987. He retired on his 62nd birthday two years later.

Initially working within the three distinct paths set out by the firm's founders, Allford soon started to introduce a new rational form derived from the American work of Mies van der Rohe. These were published in England in the early 1950s and offered younger architects an alternative model to the freer “people's detailing” idiom of the Festival of Britain. In adding a new dimension to the work of YRM, Allford found common cause with another young architect who joined the firm shortly after he did and who also stayed for his whole career, Bryan Henderson. They gradually synthesised the disparate elements of the firm, refining its design sources and ideas and developing its operational methods. As a result it became a powerful corporate force in the world of architecture.

One morning, after a heated argument about some aspect of Gatwick's design with Yorke, Allford was called into his employer's office. He knew, he recalled later, that he was either going to be sacked or offered a



Allford: simple, restrained, minimalist modernist architecture, like St Thomas' Hospital in London, 1976 Photograph: Warren Gordon / Arcadi

partnership. Yorke, fortunately, was a shrewd judge of character and valued Allford as a friend and drinking companion, as well as an architect. Several years later, after Yorke's premature death in 1962, Allford and Henderson, by then also a partner, went to Finland to seek out the legendary architect Alvar Aalto, who was a friend of Yorke's for similar reasons. To their surprise, they found another English architect there, not a drinker and calling Aalto to “lieber meister”. Aalto told them that he could hardly get drunk to front of someone who addressed him as Frank Lloyd Wright had addressed his mentor Louis Sullivan. It took their combined ingenuity to dispatch the unwarranted intruder.

The 1970s and 1980s saw rapid swings in architects' fortunes. The oil crisis caused many firms to seek work abroad,

especially in the Middle East, while the boom of the 1980s led to a deterioration of design standards. YRM responded to both challenges by strengthening their core principles. Their work in the Middle East, such as Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, responded to the desert climate without resorting to pastiche – and helped them to win a Queen's Award for Export Achievement, while their offices of the 1980s were as refined as they had ever been, as the firm's own offices on Britton Street to Clerkenwell – simple, restrained, minimalist modernism – demonstrated. One of Allford's last designs was a competition entry for the Grand Buildings site in Trafalgar Square. It came second, and he was disappointed that the winner replicated the undistinguished 19th-century facade. Allford always disliked pastiche.

A long career, prodigious memory and sense of fun made Allford a great raconteur, a skill he shared all the more readily when it accompanied food, wine and cigars. Unlike many architects of his calibre, he had many interests and friends outside his profession – of whom one, Alistair McAlpine, claims some credit for his conversion from socialism to capitalism. That in itself was often a starting point for sharply characterised reminiscence, of the absurdities of student politics in the 1940s or local government behaviour of the 1960s.

He owned some fine paintings, including one by Le Corbusier which gave him great pleasure. In conversation he could refer to film, French literature which he had studied as a subsidiary subject at university, or just gossip; he enjoyed discussing architecture, but not

so much as discussing sport. Even his beloved Sheffield Wednesday, which he supported from childhood, though, took second place to his wife Beryl and four children. The death of the eldest, Jane, last year upset him deeply. Fortified by the remaining family circle, his friends and his own intellectual resources, he was beginning to come to terms with it when he died suddenly, the day after he had heard of the death of his son's friend.

Jeremy Melvin

David Allford, architect: born Sheffield 12 July 1927; Partner, Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardall (later YRM plc) 1958-75; Joint Senior Partner 1975-87; Chairman 1987-89; CBE 1984; married Beryl Roebuck (one son, two daughters and one daughter deceased); died London 10 August 1997.

## Bernard Wheeler Robinson

With the death of Bernard Wheeler Robinson amateur music-making has lost one of its most loved father figures. His greatest achievement was Music Camp, a powerhouse of amateur music-making whose output could eclipse all but the largest of music festivals.

It began in 1927 when a group of Cambridge friends took a musical holiday together, hiring a small village hall at Foynders End near Hitchin in Hertfordshire and camping in a nearby field with borrowed tents and kitchen equipment. From these beginnings things just grew. In 1935 Music Camp acquired its first permanent base at Bothamstead, in Berkshire, by which time the pattern of two nine-day music camps each year was already established, devoted only by the Second World War years.

In 1963 Robinson and family moved to Figs, Eric Gill's former house, on the beech-lined top of a hill near High Wycombe. Music Camp moved there three years later, to find not only space to expand, but after 1976 the possibility of indoor accommodation for smaller parties, making weekend events feasible in all but the depths of the Chilterns winter. Sooner or later you or I would have grown at best uncomfortable at invasion on such a scale: Robinson never did.

As Music Camp expanded, Robinson delegated more and more of the organising, until by the mid-1980s it could function effectively without him. But his spirit remained everywhere, and the ethos was the one he had deliberately fostered. The music-making was paramount: those who attended were expected to make it their first priority. Conditions were kept basic, not to say Spartan, which had two marvellous effects: stressing the music and sense of communing with friends; and encouraging the young and, more importantly, young to spirit.

All work was to be shared equally, not just chores like washing up, scrubbing and cleaning, but even carpentry and brick-laying; this fostered a sense of belonging rarely found in such a large musical organisation. It is a testimony to the family spirit of Music Camp that there are many second and even third-generation Campers. And this spirit goes on: the 132nd Camp takes place at the end of this month.

Robinson managed to bring the best out of almost anyone: what an event looked like, or sounded like, wasn't nearly so important as what you brought to it and what you got out of it. The philosophy paid off. When Music Camp began, playing even the symphonies of Beethoven was an adventure; by the time Robinson was taking a back seat in the 1980s Campers were mounting their own Ring cycle and tackling scores like Messiaen's *Tuancula* and *Chronochromie*.

Robinson was committed to amateur music-making and invidious that what he described as “the mainstay of music, the vehicle of its existence, historically and financially, the medium in which it develops” got so little attention. With typical resolve he set out to survey this unquantifiable vast area, producing in 1985 his idiosyncratic book, *An Amateur in Music*.

He was the son of the distinguished Baptist theologian Henry Wheeler Robinson, but his own unquenchable search for truth and endearing child-like curiosity drew him not to

religion, but via mathematics to physics – new, challenging and exciting. After university (Trinity College, Cambridge), he stayed in Cambridge, working in the 1920s on Ernest Rutherford's team at the Cavendish Laboratory, and then spent nine years under Sir William Bragg at the Davy-Faraday Laboratory of the Royal Institution on X-ray crystallography. In the late 1930s Robinson was senior lecturer at the Military College of Science at Woolwich.

During the Second World War he spent three years at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, followed by two years at the Ministry of Aircraft Production. After the war he designed medical equipment at the Medical Research Council's laboratory for Hampstead for three years before moving in 1949 to the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, where he was Superintendent of the Applied Physics Division until his retirement in 1964.

The surface appearance of



Robinson: Music Camp

anyone or anything held little to the way of interest or distraction for him: he was interested solely in substance. This, combined with his personal modesty and total lack of ceremony, won him many devoted friends. It also informed everything he did. In his violin-playing, for instance, he acquired just enough technique to get him through the literature and to penetrate directly to the heart and mind of some of the greatest music ever written. It was the same with whatever he put his hand to. Many friends received gifts of recycled joinery, assembled with ingenuity, imagination, care and almost no regard for final appearance.

In 1933 Robinson married Alice Dodds, a gifted musician and pianist. Some eighteen months after her death in 1958 he married the cellist Elizabeth Orloff-Davidoff, a daughter of Lord Howard de Walden. Robinson had a somewhat old-fashioned attitude to women, treating them with courtly respect rather than as equals, though any that demonstrated practical or organisational abilities was quickly accorded the status of an honorary man.

It was not so much failing health that marred his final years as the increasing deafness which began to cut him off from the companionship of friends and from the music he had done so much to foster. And, inevitably, came the losses of many dear and close friends from the early days of Camp. But there were compensations: in his eighties came the grandchildren who, literally, gave him a new lease of life.

David Mather

Bernard Wheeler Robinson, physicist and musician: born 6 June 1904; married 1933 Alice Dodds (died 1958; one son), 1960 Elizabeth Orloff-Davidoff (died 1976); died Speen, Buckinghamshire 7 July 1997.

## Ruth Dyson

Ruth Dyson was one of the few pianists of her generation who turned to the harpsichord at a time when, despite the efforts of pioneers like Arnold Dolmetsch, it was still regarded as “quaint” by the establishment. She was not only a fine performer on piano, harpsichord, clavichord and virginals, but also a distinguished professor, adjudicator, lecturer and author.

Dyson studied piano with the legendary Kathleen Long at the Royal College of Music and it was on hearing her teacher play harpsichord music on the piano that she became interested in the music of that period. She then discovered the fine collection of early keyboard instruments at the RCM which further inspired her interest. Eventually she bought her own Goble harpsichord and gave her first Wigmore recital on that instrument in 1941.

During the Second World War, she did auxiliary nursing under the Red Cross, taught music to evacuee children and made endless tours giving concerts in factories, military camps and hospitals.

After the war she continued her career as both pianist and harpsichordist. She played piano concertos with most of the main orchestras in the UK and gave frequent solo recitals on both instruments. She also undertook many European tours sponsored by the British Council and made regular broadcasts

from the BBC for over 30 years, many of which were first performances of works by contemporary composers for the early keyboard instruments. She also made numerous recordings for the BBC Archives on instruments from famous collections which included the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Colt Clavier Collection.

In the late Forties Dyson was involved for some time with the Leith Hill Festival and valued the friendship of its founder, Ralph Vaughan Williams. For some time she served as the festival's librarian and would recall the occasion when Vaughan Williams telephoned her to ask about some of the Haydn oratorios, adding: “Don't forget we're meeting at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning when we're going to rub out the Creation!”

Dyson returned to the RCM in 1964 to take up professorships in both harpsichord and piano and a lectureship in the history of early keyboard instruments. It was during this time that she took her students to visit the famous collections of early keyboard instruments and so inspired them to take up the study of harpsichord music for themselves; among those who are now firmly established in the field are Melvyn Tan, Sophie Yates, Robert Wholley and many others. She was awarded a Fellowship in 1980 and retired in 1987 after 23 years of service.

Her students adored her and many kept in touch right up to the present.

Dyson's lecturing activities also extended abroad where she lectured in French at the World Forum of Harpsichord in Paris and in German to the Telemann Society in Hamburg. She also represented the UK as adjudicator at the International Fortnight at Bruges. She contributed articles to a number of learned journals and to the 1979 edition of *The Oxford Companion to Music*.

As a soloist she made a number of recordings which included Herbert Howells works for the clavichord to celebrate the composer's 90th birthday. She also made recordings with the bass singer and harpsichordist Peter Medhurst with whom she shared a happy musical partnership for the last 20 years; these included an album of Schubert songs recorded at the Colt Clavier Collection. One of their most recent recordings for Two To Play was of all the double harpsichord works up to the time of Mozart when the harpsichord was superseded by the piano. Medhurst told me: “She was my mentor and it was such a joy to work with her. She was so spontaneous and a brilliant keyboard player, and she had such rhythmic point. Whatever instrument she played – great music came out.”

She was married to the military historian Edward



Spontaneous and scholarly: Dyson playing on a 20th-century Goble harpsichord in the early 1970s

Thomas, nephew of the poet of the same name who was killed in the First World War. She loved travelling with her husband as he revisited many of the places abroad where he was in military intelligence, including Thailand in 1995, the last journey they made together. He died in 1996.

Dyson appeared for many years in the Haslemere Festival of Early Music, and its Musical Director, Jeanne Dolmetsch, recalled attending her 80th birthday party in March this year: “She was in sparkling form. She will be remembered for intimate, witty and informative

lectures, her wonderful accompanying and her skill in improvisation. She was my musical mother!”

As a person she was charming, unaffected and modest despite the fact that she had an incredibly scholarly mind. She was also generous towards other artists – a rare quality among musicians.

In recent years she taught regularly at the Dolmetsch Summer School, and confessed it was one of her favourite undertakings because clearly she had a special empathy with the young. It was here, on the last afternoon of the course, that she

suffered a fatal heart attack after a wonderful week in which she had been full of her usual enthusiasm. As Jeanne Dolmetsch put it: “Ruth Dyson's life was rather like a piece of music which bubbles over with excitement and ends in a perfect cadence. That is how she would have wanted it.”

Margaret Campbell

Bernard Ruth Dyson, keyboard player and teacher: born London 28 March 1917; married 1964 Edward Thomas (died 1996; one step-son, one step-daughter); died Guildford, Surrey 16 August 1997.

## Gordon Legg



Legg: instinctively courteous

Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique) was severely underdeveloped in the 1930s and held firmly under colonial rule. The South Africa Evangelical Fellowship (now the Africa Evangelical Fellowship) had waited for years for the opportunity to have missionary workers there. When Gordon Legg, then in his forties, saw an article in his home magazine, outlining a plan for six single missionaries to enter the country, he wrote an application that same day.

Henry Gordon Legg was born in Derby in 1912, the younger son of a railway clerk. He was educated at Bemrose Secondary School and the School of Com-

merce before being apprenticed at 15 to a Derby clothier. At 20, he joined the men's outfitting department of D.H. Evans in London, rising to become First Salesman. With an instinctively courteous manner, he was well suited to this métier. But his life's work was to be far removed from men's outfitting.

After two years at the Missionary Training Colony in Upper Norwood, London, Legg spent some months in Portugal, picking up courses in language and culture at the ancient University of Coimbra. With rudimentary knowledge of both, he sailed to Africa in 1939 aboard the RMS *Warwick Castle*.

His aunt had been appointed MBE for her service to Swaziland and he stayed with her when he first arrived, learning some practicalities of bush life. Her living-room floor was covered with a film of fresh cow dung to keep flies at bay. The choice was his, she said, but most Europeans preferred the smell to the bites.

Legg was stationed in Milange, in the Zambezia Province of Mozambique. He built up a school of 600 pupils, with a health clinic attached, which was run by his second wife, Katie. By his first wife, Mary, died of cerebral malaria after only two years of marriage, in

1944.) Portuguese Roman Catholic priests had long resented the influence of the Protestant mission, with its evangelical teaching. In the late 1950s the sudden death of a child in the clinic gave a pretext for them to put pressure on the government to close the station down. The Leggs heard of the death while on furlough in the UK, and rushed straight back, but were shortly afterwards visited by a government official who gave them 24 hours to vacate the whole compound. They were expelled from Mozambique.

In 1961 Legg moved to Johannesburg as Assistant General Director of the Africa

Evangelical Fellowship, becoming its General Director in 1969. He was the last to hold this post in Johannesburg before the international headquarters moved to Berkshire, England.

There were massive adjustments for the Leggs to make, from the bush to the city, from a mission compound to an office, from front-line service to international leadership. Ever with an eye to the needs of others, Legg developed the work among the thousands of men who poured south to the gold mines which formed a crescent between Johannesburg and Klerksdorp. Although well cared for in dormitory accommodation and with

adequate food, these men struggled with life in such alien surroundings, and inter-tribal fighting was not uncommon. Legg toured the mines and, with permission from their European managers, distributed Christian literature to the workers.

Retiring to Redbourne, near St Albans, in Hertfordshire, Legg never lost his love for the Mozambique church. His dealings with Africans had always been marked by respect and integrity, never bearing a trace of the patronising attitudes so pervasive then among Europeans. This was evidently acknowledged, for Christian leaders and civic leaders alike

greeted him with great warmth when he visited the country again in 1982. By this stage the church there was already ten times the size it had been when he was expelled. On a return visit in 1993, when he was 81, he describes how, on his arrival in Namputa, “more than 5,000 lined the road approaching the church and about 2,000 were inside and outside for nearly three hours”.

Robin Wells

Henry Gordon Legg, missionary, born Derby 12 January 1912; married 1942 Mary Jenks (died 1944), 1949 Katie Allen; died Harpenden, Hertfordshire 15 August 1997.

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## DEATHS

FERGUSON: Dr Patrick Drummond, on 18 August, in London, aged 78. Beloved father of Jamie, Madeleine and Lucy. Funeral at St John's, Hyde Park Crescent, on Thursday 21 August at 2.15pm, followed by committal at Manchester Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Amnesty International or RNLI may be sent to Arthur Gresty Ltd (Thalford Funeral Homes), Greyfriars, 305 Manchester Road, Ayr, Ayrshire, WA14 5PH.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, Funerals, Weddings, Anniversaries, Memorials) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT excl.).

## Birthdays

Commandant Daphne Blundell, former director, Women's Royal Naval Service, 81; Mr Gordon Brand Jun, golfer, 39; Sir Malcolm Hilbery Chaplin, senior partner, Hilbery Chaplin, 58; Mr Bill Clifton, President of the United States, 51; Lord Cocks of Harrill, former MP, 68; Mr Kenneth Dixon, former chairman, Rowntree plc, 68; Mr Charles Driver, Master of Wellington College, 58; Sir Francis Ferris, High Court judge, 65; Mr Ian Gould, cricketer, 40; Dame Rose Heilbrun, former High Court judge, 83; Mr Edmund Howard, former Chief Master of the Supreme Court, 85; Sir David Hopwood, Professor of Genetics, University of East Anglia, 64; Mr

Stephen Hughes, MEP, 45; Mr Richard Ingrams, Editor, *The Oldie*, 65; Mr Billy J. Kramer, singer, 54; Mr Bernard Levin, journalist and writer, 69; Mr David Lodge, actor, 76; The Right Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, 48; Mr Michael Roper, former Keeper of Public Records, 65; Miss Jill St John, actress, 57; Mr Willie Shoemaker, jockey, 66; Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 64; Mr John Mark Taylor MP, 56; Mr Georg von Mallinckrodt, chairman and chief executive, Schroders Inc, 67; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, 83; Mr Michael Woodhouse, former chairman, Reznor, 70; Mr Henry Wyndham, chairman, Sotheby's, 44.

## Anniversaries

Births: James Crichton (“The Admirable Crichton”), scholar, 1560; Johannes Fyt, painter, 1609; John Flamsteed, first Astronomer Royal, 1646; Samuel Richardson, novelist, 1719; 1889; Marie-Jeanne Ben, Comtesse du Barry, royal mistress, 1743; Orville Wright, aviator, 1871; Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, fashion designer, 1883; Frederic Ogden Nash, humorist, 1902. Deaths: Augustus, first Roman emperor, 14; Frans Snyder, painter, 1657; Blaise Pascal, theologian and mathematician, 1662; James Watt, engineer, 1819; Richard Burton, actor, 1984; Viscount Haldane, statesman, 1928; Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev, ballet director and choreographer, 1929; Sir Nigel

Ross Playfair, actor and manager, 1934; Federico Garcia Lorca, poet and playwright, 1936; Sir Henry Joseph Wood, conductor, 1944; Julius (“Cronch”) Marx, comedian, 1977; Alastair Sim, actor, 1976; Hermione Baddeley, actress, 1986; Sir Frederick Ashton, choreographer, 1988. On this day: Mary, Queen of Scots returned to Scotland from France, 1561; France and Spain formed an alliance against Britain, 1796; British forces were driven out of Somalia, 1940; Li-Gen Bernard Montgomery became commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa, 1942; Michael Ryan, a 27-year-old marksman, killed 14 people in Hungerford, Berkshire, and finally himself, 1987; the Soviet news agency

TASS announced that the vice-president, Gennady Yanyushev, had taken over the presidency of the Soviet Union “because of the ill-health of Mikhail Gorbachev”, 1991; a state emergency was declared and troops surrounded important buildings, including the Russian parliament building, in Moscow, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Agrippa and Timothy, St Andrew the Apostle, St Bertulf of Bobbio, St Creadan of Evesham, St John Eudes, St Louis of Angoulême, St Mocho, St Sebald, St Simeon III and St Thecla.

Lectures  
Tate Gallery: Andrew Kennedy, “Late 18th-century British Portraits”, 7.30pm.  
National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, “Babes (III)”, attributed to De Bles, The Finding of Moses”, 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Sudeshna Guha, “Mughal India”, 2.30pm.  
British Museum: Jehu Muir, “Hermione”, an introduction to Greek education”, 1.1pm.

## Changing of the Guard

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

مكتبة من الأدب



# The Russian mission to make do and mend

To those who despair that science does not get enough attention in the media, and that it has lost its attraction for those not directly involved, we would say only one word: Mir. Mention the orbiting Russian space station, and people who normally profess disdain for physics or chemistry will talk eagerly about zero-gravity toilets (especially those that get blocked, as Mir's did), fires in space (another unfortunate little incident), how you actually dock two orbiting spacecraft, and what it must be like to be stuck in a cold, cramped washing machine of a place in a chaotic orbit because - as happened yesterday - the main computer has crashed.

Mir has become an orbiting episode of *The Simpsons*, a byword for getting it wrong in space. Small wonder that the British-American astronaut Michael Foale asked for the Russian relief crew to bring 100 tablets of Tylenol painkillers when they flew up last week. By contrast, the US space agency Nasa piles triumph upon triumph. Life on Mars! Pathfinder on Mars! Sojourner rover on Mars! Picture-postcard sunrise on Mars! Meanwhile, last November the Russian mission to Mars wobbled off the launchpad and then crashed in the Pacific. Altogether the US, together with Japan and Europe, make a better fist of making things that work in space. So why not just pack the astro-

nauts into their escape capsule, let them get back to a well-earned shower and proper food, and send Mir off into outer space, or slip back into the atmosphere to burn up?

One reason is that Mir represents something very important to post-Soviet Russia. It was meant to last only five years, but has been up there, twirling past 280 kilometres above our heads, once every 90 minutes or so for 12 years. It's an important link to a time when Russian engineers and scientists could challenge the world on many fronts - a claim they are unlikely to make now, unless it is as the country best able to make limousines hallel-proof for clients involved in shady dealings.

Equally, Russians need Mir and its veritable awfulness. It is a reminder that it is not just the man or woman in the Moscow street who is having a tough time of it; even the highly-trained cosmonauts have to make do and mend. The soap opera in which the players can't use soap (water stocks are dwindling) and can't play music (the power has been cut by computer failure) holds a grim fascination. It's like watching England's cricket team trying to save a game against Australia. Actually, they do better than the England team: on the whole, the cosmonauts muddle through, adopting a combination of the sealing-wax-and-twine approach, and the Russian equivalent

of the stiff upper lip. Heath Robinson would be proud of them. All that aside, Mir does in fact have a political and economic value to Russia. The US and Japan are serious about building a full-scale orbiting space station called Freedom, on which construction work is intended to begin some time in the next two years. Canada and Europe are also involved; and Russia wants to play its part, too. It won't quite look like the enormous ferris wheel of Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but it will sprawl over an area as big as two football fields. The plan suggests that Space Station Free-

dom will cost more than \$20bn (£12.5bn), and possibly as much again in servicing and operating costs over its expected 15-year life span.

No single nation can pay that bill. The US Congress has repeatedly balked at elements of the cost, leading to a PR offensive by Nasa of which the "Life on Mars" meteorite may be seen as an element. Certainly, Nasa's well-choreographed successes have helped secure its share of funding for the space station, which will be important for medical and other research (including high-cost, private-sector experiments) as well as scientific experiments.

So, the US is happy to cough up; Japan can pay its way; Europe and Canada, with some protest, will foot their share of the final demand. But where can Russia, with its awful currency and economic problems, find the hard cash to buy a piece of Freedom? It cannot afford to be left out. But the truth is, it cannot afford to be included, either - at least, not paying with real money. Russia cannot afford to build and launch a new space station; so, until Freedom is built, it offers a useful place to hire out to private groups and research organisations which want to do their own small-scale experiments. Unfortunately, the crash with a supply ship holed exactly the module which was being used for scientific experiments on some plants and beetles - another blow to Russian prestige, and its bank balance, not to mention the effect on the beetles.

What is the point of Mir, then? To the Russians, it is that they can show off - no, honestly - their make-do approach to space. Whereas the Americans practise their space missions "to the point of neurosis" (to quote one Russian controller last week), the Russians know that it is impossible to prepare for everything. All you can really take up there is a state of mind like a Boy Scout: be prepared. The missions on a space station will long be unpredictable, and all sorts of things will go wrong. Mir is just the beginning. It may

look from here as if the best thing for Mir would be to send it spinning off into the hinterland of space, never to be seen or heard of again (unless, perhaps, by some baffled extraterrestrials, circa Stardate 1448569306780943). But for the Russians, there is as much to lose by failing as there is by going on. Which tells the whole story, when you come down to it.

## Must do better at telling the truth

So, school inspectors are unable to write reports. They rely heavily on preprogrammed phrases which mean next to nothing - clichés of their own and their predecessors' creation. Are we surprised by this? Of course not. Every profession develops its own elaborate ways of avoiding offence to people. Telling the raw truth is, particularly for bureaucrats, more than a soul can bear. Therefore you find ways around it - by saying nothing, you say everything. By declining to congratulate, you condemn utterly. The problem with this is that it never works in the end. People would prefer unvarnished reality. They might get angry, they might even have a case. But if the judge's real view isn't there, what can they do? Just stew. Nothing good ever came of that.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Stupid drug law makes folly a crime

Sir: On 12 August I wrote, in relation to the jailing of my son James, about the persecution of our children by the justice system. Well we've done it again ("Woman, 22, jailed for giving friend ecstasy", 16 August).

Two girls went to a nightclub. One gave the other one ecstasy pill which she consumed with amphetamines and alcohol. She suffered a severe reaction and nearly died. The supplying girl was prosecuted; the consuming girl was not. The judge said supplying ecstasy had to be punished severely and sent her to prison for nine months.

The justice system has missed the point again: what caused the dangerous reaction was the combination of alcohol, amphetamines and ecstasy taken by very silly girls having fun.

Only nine people died last year from reactions to ecstasy. Forty thousand people died from the effects of alcohol.

None the less, once again the justice system picks out one vulnerable and foolish person who falls into its lap, and then sets about bullying her with a stupid and bigoted law, believing somehow the rest of us will be deterred.

When are we going to grow up and stop confusing youthful folly with crime?

MICK HUMPHREYS  
Taunton, Somerset

Sir: May I congratulate Brian Iddon, MP for Bolton South East, who has bravely called for a Royal Commission on drugs, after the shooting of a five-year-old boy in Bolton.

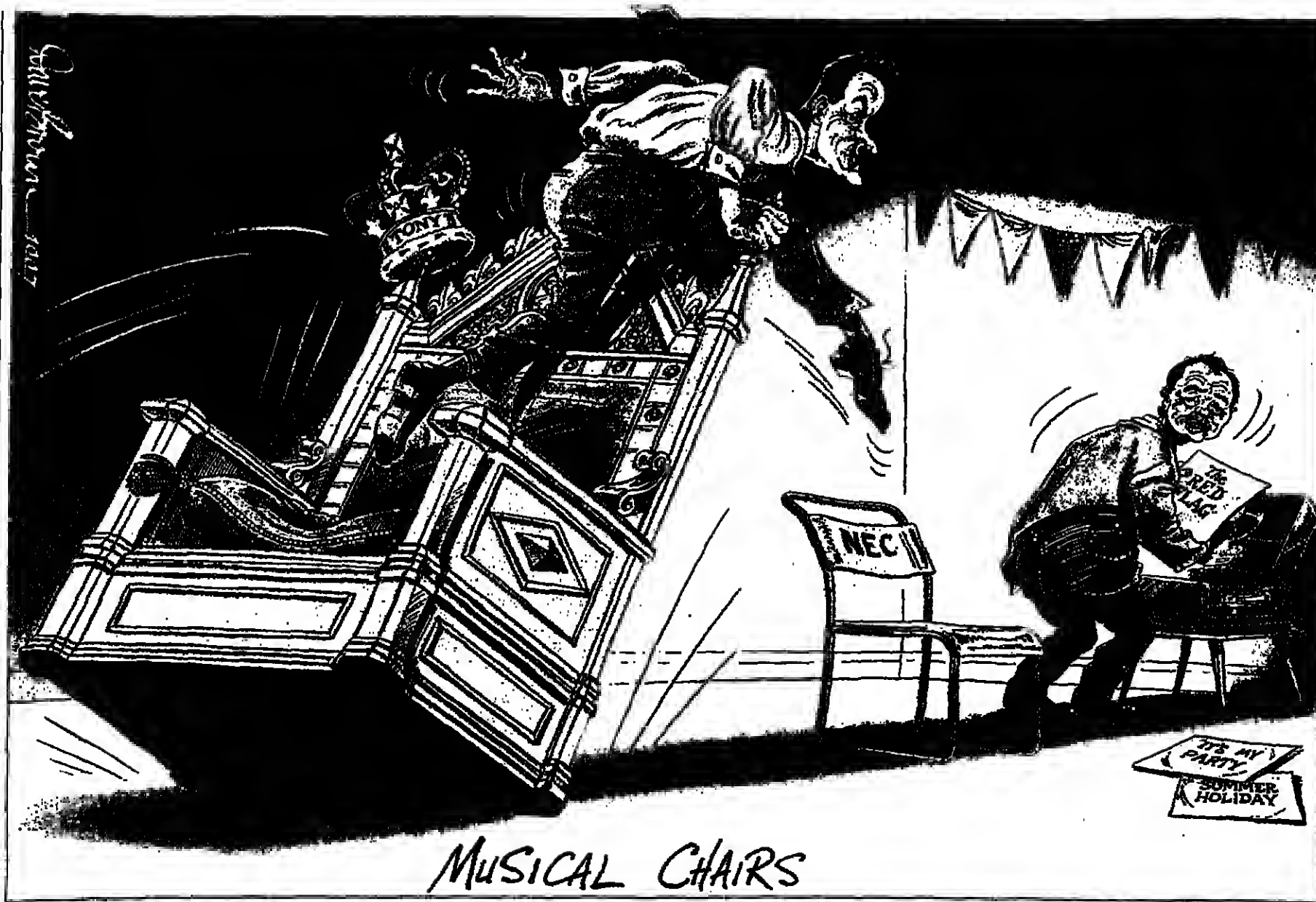
Mr Iddon has clearly seen the truth - that prohibition of drugs is a failure.

When a marketable substance is made illegal, it simply creates opportunities for massive illegal profits and everything which goes alongside the protection of such businesses. Greed for extra profit also means that the drugs can be cut with substances often more dangerous than the drugs themselves, causing unnecessary illness and death amongst users. This is particularly true for cannabis - the impurities are almost certainly more dangerous than the plant itself.

However, decriminalisation, although better than nothing - it would enable users of hard drugs to seek help without fear of arrest - would not solve all the problems. It would leave the supply of drugs in the hands of criminals.

The answer to the drugs problem is full legalisation. This does not mean that hard drugs would be available at the corner shop. Rather it would mean that pure hard drugs would be available through controlled outlets - such as doctors' prescriptions and chemists. Drug distribution would be controlled and the addicts recognised. The fall in cost to users would decrease crime and knock the illegal suppliers out of the market. Addicts and dealers would have no reason to create new addicts to finance their own habits.

JACK GIRLING  
Chairman, Campaign to Legalise Cannabis International Association  
Norwich



### Blind to oomph on South Bank

Sir: Sir Brian Corby's letter of 16 August defended Lord Rogers' South Bank proposals against Robert Maxwell's attack (Letters, 13 August) by quoting Sir Leslie Martin's approval of the shielding his Royal Festival Hall will receive from those later monsters next door. But that is not enough.

Maxwell's negativism illustrates the seizure the Brits suffer when anything bright appears. Pettyfogging nit-picking killed Mies van der Rohe's Mansion House tower, Zaha Hadid's Welsh National Opera House, Santiago Calatrava's east London bridge and Sir Norman Foster's scintillating skyscraper, grey academia blinding us to oomph.

Wary of ceiling in external space, I like wind in my hair and singing in the rain. Yet if the young want controlled atmospheres - like the jet-lagged Pacific fish they prefer to taste British - Rogers will achieve this with glorious pazzazz.

Sir Brian's South Bank Board should meet Rogers' spirit and find ways of stretching his flowing ribbon of glass all the way to County Hall with a taller "Hokusai" breaking wave masking the ugly boat of the Shell building. Glittering and in scale with Father Thames himself, what a glamorous heart-tangler from the Embankment!

Balance a wide wooden deck, the sky its roof, above the trains on Hungerford Bridge and, over the moon, everyone would dance across the river, making love under the stars.

Professor PATRICK HODGKINSON  
Bath

### Victims of child pornography

Sir: In today's *Independent* (18 August), both Richard Ingrams and Glen Newey express sympathy for the schoolteacher who killed himself after being charged with possessing child pornography. Because he was not actually interfering with these children, neither man seems to find his crime anything to get upset about.

Where do these two believe the children come from who are exploited for the creation of such pornography? Are they so lacking in empathy for anyone except their own kind - middle-aged, middle-class men - that they cannot imagine the fear and shame these boys feel? I don't know if Glen Newey has young male grandchildren, but I know Mr Ingrams does. If at some future date his little darlings are used in such a way to gratify dirty old men, I hope he can continue to practise what he preaches.

JULIE BURCHILL  
Brighton, East Sussex

### Leader in waiting

Sir: Andrew Blum (letter, 16 August) explains the "rudeness and cheating" of some restaurants in France by their taking on "large numbers of French students" in the summer. I have not in 20-odd years of living in tourist centres in France met rudeness or cheating. Nor have I met any but rarely changing professional staff, often pretty cold, brisk and correct on a first visit, but usually very friendly over the years.

Is he thinking of President Chirac? As a student, he did work in a restaurant - in the US. Few French restaurants would have accepted him as serious.

JOHN LIVINGSTONE  
Blairis, France

by P J Stewart (letter, 13 August).

The fact is that society has available to it a range of psychoactive drugs, all of which are potentially harmful and many of which are perceived by their users as beneficial. Experience on a massive scale, both here and especially in the US, shows that prohibition doesn't work and generates much crime and other social ills.

The solution could be to allow "tolerated" substances to be sold at low-profile outlets without promotion and with appropriate health information.

It is said that no government could move towards decriminalisation, because to do so would imply diluting the health warning. If alcohol, which can legitimately occupy a prominent place in this list, were included, it would show a wish to approach this difficult and ancient problem in an unbiased and logical way. This process will not eliminate all drug damage in society, but it could greatly minimise it.

JIM HILL  
Chilchampton, Devon

### Aloof BFI needs Alan Parker

Sir: Is Colin McArthur really surprised that nobody has made a fuss about Alan Parker's appointment to the British Film Institute ("Warning: beware a narrow focus on the wide screen", 15 August)?

In truth, the average cinema-goer, and indeed the average "intellectual" probably couldn't care less. Relatively few people have heard of the BFI and even

fewer have any idea what it actually does. It doesn't help that the BFI has spent periods of the past 20 years indulging a penchant for rarefied, academic debate which has tended to overshadow the organisation's more pragmatic achievements.

Alan Parker may or may not be an anti-intellectual xenophobe; this is a matter of opinion. But if he can open up a rather aloof organisation to public scrutiny and promote it to a wider audience then perhaps the BFI will end up being as popular as Alan Parker's films have been with British audiences.

JOHN DUNN  
London NW1

### Tide of hedonism swamps gays too

Sir: Your leading article (15 August) lamenting the narcissistic obsessions of the men's magazine market is spot-on. This trend is also reflected in the gay male press, where, since the demise of *Capital Gay*, political debate is practically a no-go area.

What we now have on offer is *Attitude*, which, with its penchant for designer gear lifestyles and washboard chests, is little more than a paean to some mythical Apollonian ideal. Even the former champion of gay political causes, *Gay Times*, seems to have moved downmarket, in a bid to capture the "post-politics" metropolitan, hedonistic consumer. And the freebies, such as *Boys*, are little

better than comics aimed at "post-political" boy-babes and their older, richer admirers.

The common denominator between *FTM* and the above magazines is that they are aimed at single and well-heeled young men, both gay and straight. Meanwhile, debates over the age of consent, workplace discrimination, the relationship between poverty and gay prostitution, and the prevalence of queer-bashing, continue to be swept under the gay press carpet.

Dr ALAN BULLION  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

### Applause that spoils the Proms

Sir: Michael Varcoe-Cocks (letter, 14 August) defends the right of enthusiastic but inexperienced concert-goers to applaud between movements.

The enthusiasm shown by Proms audiences is commendable. However, it is unreasonable to hope that, as well as learning about the music, they will also learn some of the conventions of behaviour which help to prevent distraction and spoil the enjoyment of others? Unfettered applause can be just as irritating as rustling sweet papers and beeping digital watches.

I can remember a Proms performance of Weber's "Invitation to the Dance" a few years ago where part of the audience fell into the trap of bursting into applause at the climax

of the main waltz theme without waiting for the quiet epilogue to be played; this undoubtedly showed enthusiasm but spoiled the performance for everyone else.

In case I am accused of elitism at the expense of new concert audiences, I should point out that regular attenders who should know better can be even more inconsiderate. I am thinking in particular of the person dubbed by the Promenaders "The Man with the Clap" who applauds loudly and shouts "Bravo" a microsecond after the final bar to show off how well he knows the piece. Fortunately he was missing at this season's performance of "Das Lied von der Erde" when the audience waited in stunned silence for what seemed like an age and only then broke into rapturous applause.

GORDON ELLIOT  
London E1

### Gandhi dressed for protest

Sir: Gandhi's obsession with hand-spun clothes was more than a personal fad ("Saga of Mahatma memorial", 15 August). Indian hand-woven textiles were renowned and exported to all parts of the world until the Manchester cotton industry swamped the Indian market with cheap, manufactured goods in the mid-19th century.

Thus, a return to hand-woven textiles was at the heart of the early "Swadeshi" independence

movement, when bonfires of English cloth were gestures of defiance. Gandhi, with his usual perspicacity, took up this theme and made the spinning wheel the symbol of non-violent revolt.

DIANA TROY  
Merthyr Cynog, Powys

### Time to give back the marbles

Sir: I have recently returned from a short trip to Greece, where I found the local people wonderfully hospitable and friendly, despite being sincerely aggrieved by the failure of successive British governments to return the ancient marbles taken from the Acropolis by Lord Elgin.

I do not see why we cannot make a special case for the return of these treasured relics to their rightful owners - the people of Greece.

While we know that modern Greece and its people are long removed from the ancient Hellenic, do we not still owe them a debt of gratitude for all they have given the world?

It is one thing to win the spoils of war, quite another to remove the cultural heritage of a nation suffering the oppression and humiliation of occupation.

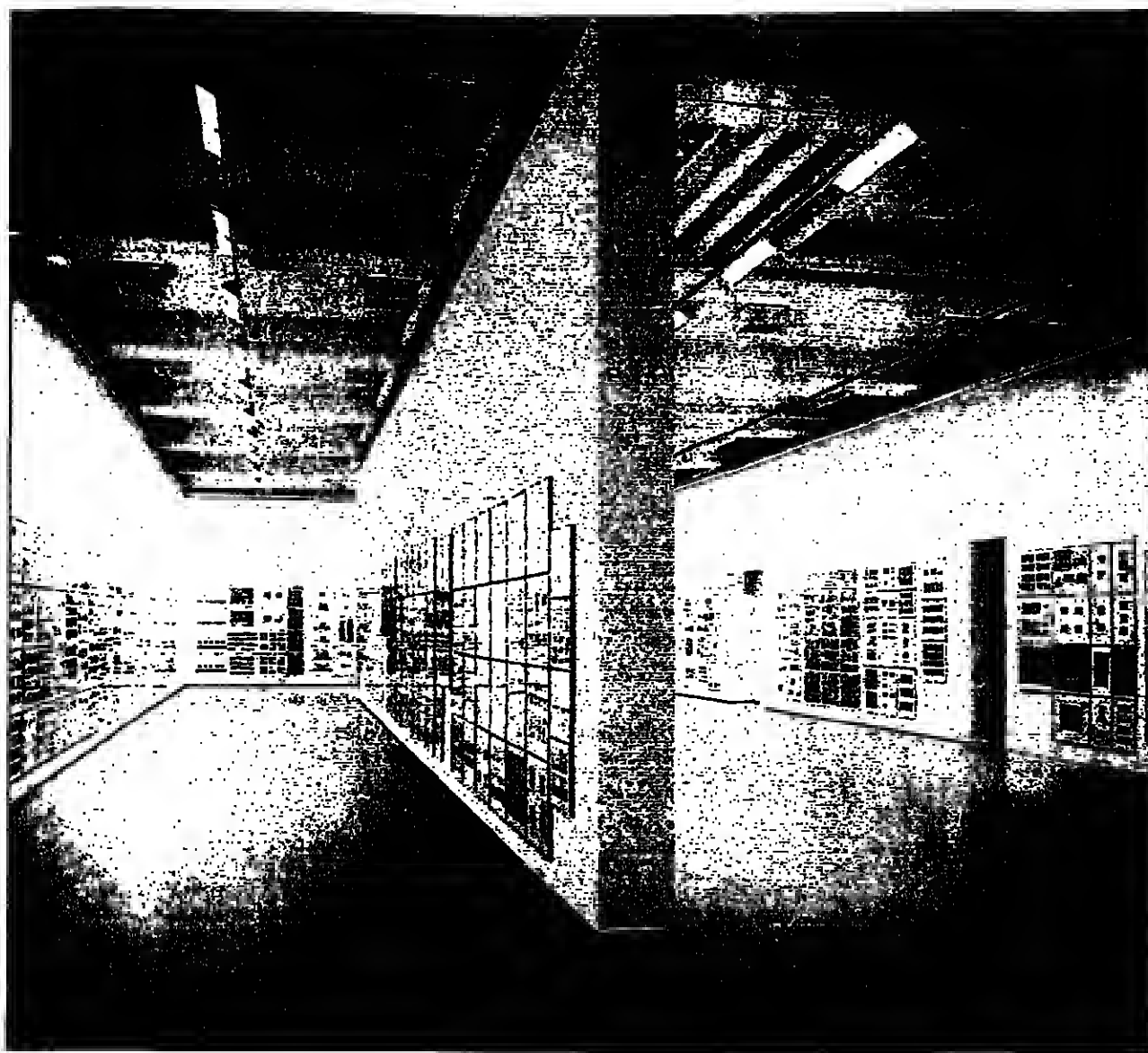
Surely now, with the advent of a so-called "moral foreign policy", it is time for us to swiftly return these marbles, putting to rest the whole sorry affair, and in doing so, be the cause of national celebration in Greece, thus further increasing her respect for us as a natural friend and ally.

JULIAN MCSWEENEY  
London W2



# criticism

What is it about avant-garde art that so excites the Germans? This year's *Dokumenta* extravaganza has much to enjoy, but don't expect to understand it, says Matthew Collings



## It may be anti-art, but they're all mad for it

A strange thing about German people is the way they like avant-garde art so much. We hate it over here, of course, but over there they're mad for it. All over the place there are *Kunsthallen* and *Kunstvereine* full of the stuff. There are loads of huge private collections of it, tons of swanky new brilliantly designed multicoloured post-modernist museums devoted to it, stacks of big annual art fairs selling it, and a horde of sexy, international superstar German artists who since the Sixties or Fifties – or indeed any time after the Second World War – have risen to massive, Oasis-type fame, based on the nation's craving for art that nobody can understand.

The biggest, best, most expensively produced and least comprehensible-by-normal-people international art fair is the five-yearly *Dokumenta*, held in the otherwise un-noteworthy town of Kassel, an hour or so's very high-speed German train ride from the nearest airport at Hanover. This year's *Dokumenta* cost £7m to stage. The money comes partly from taxpayers and partly from private sponsorship. That's a lot of Turner Prizes.

As usual, a guest curator has thought up a theme and selected the artists to take part: 250 of them, from all over the world. They range from thundering giants of the genre such as Germany's Gerhard Richter, an art superstar since the Sixties, to bright newcomers on the international avant-garde radar, such as sculptor

Siobhan Hapaska and installation/conceptual artist Liam Gillick, both London-based, both Goldsmiths College graduates.

This year's curator, the 42-year-old Parisian Catherine David, who used to organise exhibitions at the Pompidou Centre, has been having a great time over the past few months staging international press conferences and saying nothing that anybody could understand beyond bintng strongly that her *Dokumenta* would be anti-commercial, anti-galleries, anti-trendy and anti-American. When the *Dokumenta* finally opened in July, it turned out that the show, at least in its line-up, really is more or less against trendiness, or at least indifferent to it.

Lots of the artists exhibiting are not at the buzzing end of international contemporary art, nor are they represented by powerful galleries. Many of them have almost unpronounceable names and do not come from Germany, New York, London, or even eastern Europe. Also, many of the well-known participants are far less trendy now than they have been in the past: Richard Hamilton and Art & Language, for example.

Indeed, these two – or three, since Art & Language is a group of two – seemed to be making a comment in their works at *Dokumenta* about the value of the past. Richard Hamilton showed a multi-part installation that included the German Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer's famously enigmatic engraving *Melancholy* (a classical female figure gloomily contemplating

some cosmic symbols), as well as a group of his own new ultra-perfectionist oil paintings of mysterious modern interiors. These included veiled references not only to Hamilton's own Pop Art past, but also to the art of the all-time master of mysterious interiors, Johannes Vermeer.

Hamilton also showed a shiny new cube-shaped metal machine thing that could make little cloudbursts. This work seemed like a sigh for the good old days when technology was universally loved for being a good thing both for society and for art. Interviewed by a group of journalists on the morning of the opening, Hamilton said that he was glad to be associated with the first conceptual artist, Marcel Duchamp, but said that today's version of conceptual art was, in his view, generally too much on the "silly" side.

Art & Language showed a group of objects called "furniture paintings" – chairs and tables made out of small, brightly coloured paintings, each one imprinted with a photocopy image of pages from their own texts – inquiries into the meaning of art – which they've been publishing since the Sixties. A further extension of their work was a performance, staged each evening, involving handsome, classically trained German actors lip-synching to a recording of a conversation between the two Art & Language members and one of their colleagues, the art writer Charles Harrison. The props for this performance were the actual paint-spattered tables and chairs and old paint pots from the duo's studio in Banbury, near Oxford, specially shipped in for the event. This was a weird but certainly compelling pile-up of illusion and reality, with some genuine discourse hiding in there somewhere.

On the morning of the opening, Catherine David gave her last press conference, reaffirming her anti-isms and announcing also that the *Dokumenta* was more or less about the big problems of modern urban intellectual, cultural and spiritual life, and the way all experience is mediated now through advertising and TV and suchlike, and that in this situation "art alone is not enough". And that's why a lot of the art in *Dokumenta* wouldn't be merely pleasurable or sensuous or beautiful, or in fact not pleasurable or sensuous or beautiful at all, but more like lots of videos and black-and-white documentary

photos and film screens and stuff. And also, because of the Internet and the way everything is known about everything as soon as it happens nowadays – or even before it happens, even if it is in Africa – there would be a lot of interactive Internet-type art events put on by incredibly young people.

It would be neat to join in with the widespread carping against the *Dokumenta* (too elitist, too obscure, too dry, too expensive), and say the really dreadful stuff was the art; but it wasn't. In fact, *Dokumenta* is a good thing. It began in 1955. The first one was mostly international-style, post-Jackson-Pollock abstract painting. The ones since then have been accurate barometers of the way art is going, and this one, the 10th, is no exception. Art really is pretty strange and difficult nowadays. It's no one's fault, and it's good to be given a chance to look it over and wonder what's going to happen next. For example – as critics are now running around asking themselves – is painting dead again? It's been dead so many times this century; maybe it really has had enough by now.

The *Dokumenta* sprawls through several big buildings, across open fields and right into the town's centre, taking over parts of the subway and mainline railway station. Nobody could say it is an entirely pleasurable experience. There is frequently the feeling that a lot of exhausting head-scratching and frowning has to be done for not much reward. But even if there is not much actual painting to speak of, there are still plenty of things you can enjoy quite straightforwardly.

Gerhard Richter's installation is like a peek behind the scenes of this artist's official output. Entitled *Atlas*, it is a huge, eye-straining collection of thousands of the snapshots and news photographs he has used as source material for the coldly scientific paintings he has been turning out for the past 30 years. Just as a documentation of the oddness of everyday life and the way fashions in sideburns come and go, it's an experience. But a lot of the material is very touchingly studio-worn, grubby with paint marks and the remains of bits of masking tape, and, on the whole, there's a warmth and intimacy and curiosity-appeal to *Atlas* – for all its grand scale – which is often lacking in Richter's finished products.

The Cologne artist Rosemarie Trockel's *House For Pigs and People* – which she designed with

an architect collaborator, Carsten Hoeller – is literally a house for pigs, which people can view through a very large sheet of mirrored glass, so that the pigs, with their newly born piglets, can't see the people.


A sculpture by Martin Kippenberger, another Cologne artist (who died earlier this year, still in his mid-forties) appears in one of the fields outside the main *Dokumenta* site. As usual with this artist, the meaning is vague, or fluid, or something. A big white metal structure like the entrance to a European metro station with a padlocked gate, it is planted in green grass, as if it might lead down into the earth. It includes a kind of Brutalist, Fifties-style logo in the metalwork – a milky bosom and a bummer. Strange, funny, sad.

Siobhan Hapaska, who was born in Ireland and moved to London from Belfast in the Eighties, has been given a whole, gallery-sized space for three of her sculptures. They mix hi-tech forms with odd, dreamy atmospheres, suggestive of far-away places and sudden changes in temperature: desert, ocean, ice. A lot of this year's *Dokumenta* is about travel, or more precisely about how ideas of travel can be accessed by modern communications technology without anyone having to go anywhere. In many cases you get the idea pretty quickly – "Aha! Travel!" – but then wonder why it's being presented to you: "Er, so what?" Hapaska's art, which can sometimes seem inhumanly streamlined and mysterious (rather than mystifying), is positively romantic and mysterious (rather than mystifying) in this context.

And what about those videos? Yes, they tended to drone on boringly. But one of them was the most instantly pleasurable work in the show. *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y* is a collage of clips, masterfully paced and edited by Johan Grimmonprez, a Trinidad-born artist who lives in Ghent, Belgium. Made over a period of two years, it shows a fabulously jangled and fractured narrative about plane-hijacking in the Seventies and is an exercise in style – the styles of hijackers, of air hostesses, of hair, of guns, of political rhetoric, and of TV ads, stings and jingles. Strange, funny, kitsch, brilliant, labour-intensive and kind of pointless. But worth seeing.

*Dokumenta 10* runs to the end of September.

Is painting dead again? The *Dokumenta* exhibition may give the critics more ammunition. Exhibits include Gerhard Richter's huge installation of photos and snapshots, 'Atlas' (top left), the group Art & Language's 'Furniture paintings' (top right), and Richard Hamilton's 'Seven Rooms - Passage' (above). Top left: © Werner Maschmann. 'Seven Rooms - Passage' courtesy of Anthony d'Offray Gallery, London



**Midland**  
The Listening Bank

### Midland Interest Rates for Personal Customers

Midland Bank Base Rate		
Effective from: 7 August 1997 7.0% Per Annum		
The following rates are effective from 18 August 1997		
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNTS</b>	Gross %	Net %
Midland Bank Account	0.40%	0.32%
Meridian		
Up to £2,000	0.40%	0.32%
£2,000+	1.40%	1.19%
£10,000+	3.21%	2.98%
£50,000+	3.45%	2.76%
Home Management Account	0.40%	0.32%
16-19 year old Account	2.48%	1.98%
Livestash	4.17%	3.33%
<b>OVERDRAFTS</b>	Increased by	Per Month % EAR %
Midland Bank Account 0.6%	1.13%	14.4%
Meridian		
Up to £2,000	0.6%	1.13%
£2,000+	0.8%	1.09%
£10,000+	0.6%	1.04%
Unauthorised	0.5%	1.91%
<b>LOANS</b>	Increased by	Per Annum % APR
Save and Borrow	0.25%	22.00 23.7
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNTS</b>		
TESSA	7.50% Tax Free	
Follow up TESSA	7.50% Tax Free	
<b>High Interest Deposit Bond</b>		
Annual Interest	Gross %	Net %
3 Year	7.25	5.80
2 Year	7.00	5.60
1 Year	6.75	5.40
6 Months	6.50	5.20
<b>Monthly Interest</b>	Gross %	Net %
3 Year	7.00	5.60
2 Year	6.75	5.40
1 Year	6.50	5.20
6 Months	6.25	5.00

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.  
Net: The rate after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.  
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## And now, Elvis impersonations to die for

Today I am bringing you the conclusion of our exclusive interview with Jerry Bonaventura. Jerry Bonaventura is the American author who has just published *Elvis Presley - The Posthumous Years*, which is the first of Elvis's biographies to concentrate on what has happened to Elvis's story since he died.

Can you explain the rocking popularity of *Elvis lookalike contests*? Especially as most of the contestants can have no idea – outside film – what Elvis looked like, being too young to have seen him?

Whoa there, whoa there! Let's take that all one at a time. First off, these are not lookalike contests. It isn't much use looking like Elvis if you can't also sound like him, and vice versa. There are guys out there who sound incredibly like Elvis but who are short and thin and bespectacled. What can they do, poor guys?

Well, they could take to hamburgers and pills and overeat till they expand and get fat and become like him.

Wise guy, huh? No, the answer for them is to change their voices a bit and become Buddy Holly clones. Now, I

am not an expert on Elvis Presley's lifetime, only on his deathtime, but I am reasonably sure that there were very few Elvis Presley impersonators during his life, only after his death. What does this tell us?

I don't know. What does it tell us?

It tells us that anyone who dared to imitate Elvis Presley in his lifetime would find himself sued for millions of dollars by Colonel Tom Parker. It also tells us that it was only when Elvis died that people really missed him. They missed him so much that they wanted to recreate his presence in any way they could. Now, this never happened to any other singing star. Nobody has ever become a Frank Sinatra impersonator or organised a Frank Sinatra impersonator contest. Why not?

Because Frank Sinatra is still alive.

Wise guy. But isn't it remarkable that nobody ever went into the business of imitating Bing Crosby or Jimi Hendrix... or John Lennon? Ah, John Lennon! Now there was a guy whose death sent shock-waves through the world! When John Lennon



**Miles Kington**

died, people felt a great man had gone. But they didn't start impersonating him. Why not?

Too easy.

Wise guy. All I'm saying is that people impersonate Elvis and nobody else. People try to look like Marilyn Monroe, and they walk like John Wayne, and they talk like Humphrey Bogart, but it's only Elvis they sing and wiggle and try to BE like. The problem is: which Elvis Presley are they going to be like?

How do you mean?

Well, Presley impersonators can imitate

the young, slim, lovely Elvis. Or they can imitate the older, fatter, slightly debauched Elvis. Or – and this is where it gets tricky – they can imitate Elvis as he would have been had he not died.

And how is that?

Some Elvis impersonators think that Elvis would have been grey-haired and slim and serious in his sixties, something like Johnny Cash. Some people think he would be a fatty. Some think he would be a rather ridiculous ageing rocker on a motorised Zimmer frame. One impersonator I know thinks that at the age of 62 Elvis would have been a balding Japanese performer in black leather!

Why would he think that?

Because the impersonator I'm thinking of is a balding Japanese singer in black leather. But then there are other spin-offs in the competitive Elvis field. There are Elvis diet-alike contests...

Diet-alike? What does that mean?

All the contestants have to cook and eat a meal from Elvis's repertoire in a certain time, without being sick.

When you said diet-alike contests, I thought you said "diet-alike" for a moment! Well, it is ridiculous that such things do exist, but if there ever was an Elvis Presley Diet-Alike Contest, I never met anyone who had gone in for it. For obvious reasons, I guess. No, the new thing that's going on in the States is the rise of Elvis Impersonator Impersonation Contests.

What on earth are they?

Well, some impersonators are so good in their own right that they have acquired their own following. They have put new twists to the King's stage presence, added new things of their own, so people are now imitating the people who imitate Elvis. An expert will be able to look at an Elvis act and tell you which impersonator it is based on.

Incredible. Finally, Mr. Bonaventura, do you have any last words of advice for Presley fans?

Yeah. If you are going to get any one new book about Elvis Presley, kids, for heaven's sake make sure it's mine! Don't get anything written by a Jerry Bonaventura impersonator!

صدا من الامین



## My name's Peter – vote for me so I can be important

At first glance, it seems a strange sort of a battlefield, rather as if a victorious general had challenged his vanquished opponent to a duel while the dead were still being hauled away. Four years ago, of course, there would have been a wonderful, symbolic resonance to it – Peter Mandelson, the moderniser's Prince of Darkness, takes on Red Ken, firebrand of the old left, in a duel for the heart of the Labour Party.

The Minister without Portfolio, long famed as Labour's spin-doctor-in-chief and architect of Tony Blair's party reforms, is to stand for one of seven constituency seats on the ruling National Executive Committee. The withdrawal of both Gordon Brown and Jack Straw from this year's election had put Ken Livingstone, former Greater London Council leader and now Brent East MP, in pole position to win a place. So the two men, legend now has it, are locked head to head in the latest bitter struggle between left and right.

Or maybe not. Maybe that battle was won long ago, the final seal stamped on its last treaty by Labour's landslide victory in the general election, the few last stragglers tolerated – or sometimes not – as relics of a bygone age.

If there is one thing Tony Blair's bright, shiny tendency can say with certainty, it is that it has the upper hand. No sane person on the left believes the battle it now wages is an equal, or even seriously a winnable one. If Labour's modernisers can abolish Clause IV, clinch a 95 per cent "yes" vote for their manifesto proposals, and top the lot by taking 418 seats at a general election, they have little left to prove.

Then why is Peter Mandelson so determined to win an NEC seat that this August finds him campaigning frantically, while less energetic men sun themselves on beaches?

The simplest explanation being advanced by party officials is that someone simply had to stop Mr Livingstone. But this will not wash. Even with his presence added to that of Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott, the left would still be outnumbered by 22 to three on the executive. And anyway, a hasty Minister without Portfolio with a millennium exhibition to run, a dozen other affairs of state to attend to and a somewhat patchy claim to party popularity is hardly the best man for the job.

Even those closest to Mr Mandelson agree that the "scupper Ken" line does not draw the whole picture. The truth is that the minister wants more than anything to be what one friend described as "a big and important politician".

Although Labour's former director of communications has come far, there has never been a real test of his popularity in the party. Never having stood for any internal position, he has never been able to prove that party members really want what he has to offer. The key to this puzzle is a deep need for legitimacy.

Although Mr Mandelson's reputation is that of a revolutionary moderniser, his friends point out that he has deep roots within the Labour Party. He joined the party at 15, and his grandfather, Herbert Morrison, was deputy prime minister after Labour's 1945 landslide



Fran Abrams

Will it matter if Mandelson fails to get a seat on the NEC? To him, yes. But to the Government or the Labour Party?

victory. Mandelson's assault on the NEC should be seen not as an aberration by a man whose closeness to the Prime Minister already gives him all the power he needs, but as part of a long, sustained campaign to become a major political player.

Will he succeed in reaching this latest staging-post? It is very hard to tell. While tales of his unpopularity abound – Mr Livingstone joked yesterday that his fellow MPs would stand him more drinks than he had been bought in 10 years if he beat off his challenger – no one knows what party members really think. And it is they who will decide, by one member, one vote.

Mr Mandelson is taking no chances – he has met more local party members since the election than any minister – but that is in the nature of the beast. One of the secrets of his success is that he rarely leaves anything to chance. The story of how he dropped into a fish and chip shop to ask for a portion of *guacamole* during the campaign for his Hartlepool seat may be apocryphal, but reports that this metropolitan creature was seen regularly on the terraces at Hartlepool United certainly are not.

His chances of success this time are complicated by one more wild card. While Gordon Brown's and Jack Straw's votes are unlikely to transfer neatly to Mr Livingstone, the Welsh minister Peter Hain is also standing and could expect to pick up quite a few of them. It is just possible that in the end it will be he, and not Red Ken, who will see off Peter Mandelson's challenge.

And will it matter if Mandelson loses? To him, certainly, although it will not have much effect on his position as a minister. No one puts himself up for such a public test of strength without fearing the humiliation of defeat. But to the Government? To the Labour Party?

Maybe Mr Mandelson will win this battle and will go on to be the "big and serious" politician that he so clearly wants to be. And maybe, in years to come, history will remember him not as a spin-doctor and moderniser but as the man who rebuilt the NHS, sorted out the pensions mess or launched a British space programme. But for now, we have no evidence of this. What we do know is that Peter Mandelson is a very effective spin-doctor. All the rest is personal ambition, pure and simple.

That is not exactly a criticism, of course. No one gets anywhere in politics unless they are personally ambitious. But to suggest that there is some grand battle of principles going on here, that in some way New Labour needs this victory, is palpable nonsense. New Labour is already sated with victory, and some may wonder why the feeling has not spread as far as the office of the Minister Without Portfolio.

The portentous tone of the debate over what will happen in this election proves just one thing – that, as usual, Peter Mandelson is doing what he does best: spinning. Perhaps Labour's voters should ask themselves whether they would prefer him to do it for his party, for the Government, or just for himself.

## Keep the flag flying for our past glories

by Robert Winder

I was obviously going to take something special to knock the DI and Dodi show off the front pages and, surprise, surprise, it's sport we've done it. Chris Smith's announcement that team games (such as cricket, football and rugby) would not be included in the Government's £100m academy of sporting excellence has raised some predictable hackles. Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, reacted to the news swiftly, suggesting that cricket be taken off the list of BBC-broadcast national events and freed to go after the big money on offer from satellite television. Chris Smith reacted equally swiftly: he called the chairman's bluff and agreed to "talk about it". In the space of just a few hours, cricket's future as an important national event was in jeopardy. Hang on, Dodi, this'll have to wait – we're needed on another line.

Breast-beating about our sporting setbacks has long been one of the nation's favourite sports; it can almost claim to deserve some sort of lottery bandit in its own right. And we are once more in a sporting slump – our athletes returned from Athens with a few silvers and bronzes, but no gold; and our cricketers have once again been humbled by Australia, a country with a population only a sixth the size of ours. If only, as Tony Banks declared at the weekend, dreamily proposing a ban on national flags and anthems at sporting encounters, it didn't matter. If only the less likeable aspects of jingoistic nationalism could be filtered out of sport, leaving it as a playground for international comradeship and fun.

If only, it is easy enough to sympathise with Banks's views: there have been plenty of times in the recent past when the Union Flag has seemed like nothing so much as gang insignia – it fitted right in with shaven heads, tattoos, beer belies and ugly brawls. This is the coarse side to flag-waving, but there's also a fine and sentimental one. Athletes (and viewers) frequently blub when their national colours ride up the flagpole, and no wonder: it simultaneously focuses and expresses, through a simple ritual, the enormousness of their achievement (the best of the whole wide world – a childhood fantasy come true). And the flags are easily transferable. Emotional unionists, and even those who usually wave dragons and thistles, would have been moved by the spectacle of Welsh, Scottish and Irish beads shoved between English buttocks during the British Lions' triumphant tour of South Africa. And an against-the-odds victory in next month's Ryder Cup would do more for the image of



Athletes often blub when their national colours ride up the flagpole, and no wonder: the ritual expresses a childhood fantasy come true

the European flag than any number of urgent polemics on the merits of currency union.

More to the point, though, competition is – like it or not – wired into the very concept of sport. Sportsmen and women begin by beating their schoolmates; then they beat other schools, then other clubs, then other towns. If they are good enough, they get picked for their countries, and then they can take on the best in the world. And in a significant symbolic sense they are ours, these sportsmen and women; they are the best we have to offer – they are picked, as the saying goes, to "represent" their countries. Nothing could be more natural than that we should want them to put us in a good light. These are our best men, we are putting forward; inevitably we are dismayed if they turn out not to be as fast or skilful as we fondly thought they were.

International sport is, if anything, growing in importance as an emblematic encounter between various competing nationalities, if only because it is such an easy thing to have in common, such an available international language. When Tony Banks remarked that all the flag-waving made sport

seem like "an extension of war", he was going too far; on the contrary, it is a harmless euphemism for war, an innocuous way for countries that dislike one another (America and the Soviet Union, for instance) to settle their differences on a basketball court or in kayaks. Throughout history, flags and banners are what people have rallied round or united beneath. Just as national stereotypes are the basis of most jokes, so sport offers a showcase for caricatures that sway close, sometimes, to racism: thus Kenyans are all long and steely legs, Italians are all hot-tempered virtuosi, and we Brits are all beer-and-pickles resolve. No amount of wishing is likely to change this.

But excellence, in Britain, has always been more highly esteemed if it seemed to have been achieved with some insouciance: we have, rather perversely, never much liked monomaniacal grinders such as Nick Faldo, preferring happy-go-lucky types such as Ian Botham, or cheerful losers such as Frank Bruno. This is why the whole idea of national academies seems weird: it strikes us, especially as it relates to athletics, as a little too authoritarian. Total-

itarian regimes have always liked athletics: the Russians, especially, could whisk 10-year-olds into hot-house programmes and turn out gold medal-winning gymnasts at the drop of a hat. There is another reason why the Government's proposal to make Olympic sports a priority has not been universally applauded. Put crudely, a big proportion of Britain's sports lovers do not really rate Olympic-type sports as sports.

Or rather, they are sports, but not games. They are tediously statistical and quantifiable (bad for arguments in the pub); they're all about David Coleman crying, "And just listen to this ... forty seven point four – a new all-comers' European indoor best!" Only rarely do they generate the kind of national pick-me-up delivered by Britain's traditional pastimes – football, rugby, cricket, golf and even tennis. These days, if a British player gets back a couple of serves, it's time to clear the back page.

To a certain extent it is ironic that a Labour government, even a New Labour government, should be giving priority to the most emphatically individualistic sport there is. But it clearly is part of any government's role to subsidise ailing interests, and athletics certainly seems to fit the bill, even if it is at the expense of "bigger" or more historic pursuits. And perhaps that, after all, is the nub of it. Not many countries are quite so ambitious in quite so many fields as we are.

Brazilians have football, New Zealanders have their All Blacks, but neither is so arrogant to believe that they can also produce world-beaters in half a dozen other sports. But we hanker after greatness in football, cricket, rugby, golf, tennis, athletic, boxing and motor sport – not to mention anything to do with boats or horses. Are we spreading ourselves too thinly? Probably. But perhaps we owe it to our past to do so. All of these sports are – more or less (athletics is Greek) – British gifts to the world, the most durable and popular legacy of our imperial adventures. It behooves us, in a way, to keep the flag flying, even if these days it is, more often than not, at half mast.

## Forget the politics, feel the quality of life

This being Ireland, we begin with a myth. There are more BMWs per head of population in Ulster than there are in the rest of the United Kingdom. Not true, said Yuike Magee. He should know. He's the managing director of The Bavarian Garage in Belfast, currently the UK's BMW Dealer of the Year.

"People are always saying it, but I've never seen figures to substantiate it," he said. Indeed, he doubts there could be any, for BMW's exclusive marketing technique is to look at the total number of cars sold in an area, decide that their market share should be 3 per cent, and then send the local dealer the determined number of cars. As a result, there is a waiting list until next Easter for the new Z3 roadster. It's a sales technique that the suave, blazered Yuike eloquently describes as "When the bar's closed everyone wants a drink".

But it's a useful myth. Like all myths, it survives because it has resonance. For it speaks of the extraordinary high quality of life in the ordinarily high quality of life in the province, a fact that goes against the received view of Northern Ireland as a mean, violent, poor, heavily subsidised place. Such stereotypes are sidestepped when the province's beautiful, what keep the province's beautiful, white sand beaches and verdant glens so wonderfully free of tourists. But there is more to the good life in Northern Ireland than that. "Dis- income is high here," said Yuike. The schools are very good. So there's far less spent on private education, which saves an average family with three kids, middle-class family with three kids, £18,000 a year. "It has some of the best – and least expensive – golf courses in Europe. London-style commuting is unknown: most people are home in 15 minutes, so the children aren't in bed when you get back."

"Nowhere is further than 30 minutes from the coast, so it's easy to go sailing," said Beth Robinson, a handsome woman in her thirties whose business has a reputation as the area's poshest estate agent. There is area for yachts, and for second homes on the North Antrim coast.

Beth's BMW was occupied elsewhere. So she borrowed somebody's to take me to lunch. The new place was Deanes, a city-centre "in" place with an extravagant mixture of décor – simple lines cluttered by Greek columns and urns – and a similar magpie eye for food. "Recession never hit as hard because the boom was never as great," she began, dipping the hefty Tuscan bread into the first of the three kinds of oils – coriander, garlic and chilli – which arrived unsolicited.

Ulster folk, she said, are cautious. They have less plastic debt. They never had a negative equity problem. The average mortgage is about £55,000 and house prices rise steadily by 5 to 10 per cent a year. "It was surprising how quickly the first ceasefire affected the market. Within three months people were coming home. Sainsbury's decided to open. When they did, there were people queuing up to get the trolleys."

Perversely, the Troubles had had a double-edged effect on the local economy. When Belfast was being bombed, the glaziers and builders who built the BMWs when it wasn't, city-centre shopkeepers would buy. But in most respects the violence just hasn't touched the Ulster middle class. "We just see it on the TV like you do," said the nice woman from outside Ballymena, whom I had met on the boat train. For all that, middle-class weekend dinner parties studiously avoid the topics of politics

## A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLELY

and religion. "So many people who are urbane and apparently normal in every other respect," said Beth, "have such ridiculous views."

The middle class eschew politics, to the extent that the area's most chic eating place, Shanks Restaurant, half-an-hour's drive into the North Down countryside, closes at the height of the dread marching season. "Most of my customers go on holiday for a fortnight, to escape," said the chef/proprietor, Robbie Millar.

But Shanks, too, shows the underside of the peace dividend. The Troubles kept the multinationals out of Ulster, Yuike Magee had told me, but now the big boys were coming in. A Hilton is being built to rival the empire of big hotels owned by a local family. The local supermarket chain, Stewarts, has been sold to Tesco.

"Before, the directors of those local firms bought BMWs from me," Yuike had said. But the conglomerates have their directors in London and local managers just get VWs or suchlike. "It's going to bring a much bigger change than the people of Northern Ireland realise. Money which once circulated in the province will now be sucked out to the head office in London."

The fracturing force of the new economic global reality was evident at Shanks, too. One of the directors from Stewarts was in that lunch time with his Tesco redundancy cheque, wondering whether he would be able to find another job. And the impact is wider. "Stewarts used local produce – even the herbs were local," said Robbie. "What will happen to local suppliers now?"

"We haven't seen your MD for a while," he shouted across the room. "He doesn't entertain as much these days," the rep replied diplomatically.

"They used to supply Stewarts, too," Robbie whispered.

That evening Paul Rankin, the owner of Roscoff, the province's first Michelin-starred restaurant, where Robbie was once head chef, visited his protégé for dinner. Rankin, a tall, wild man with stubble goatee, long curly hair and grizzled features, was greeted with warmth by the besuited clientele, who were evidently regulars at Roscoff, too.

"This man's from *The Independent*," he said, introducing me to one chap.

"You must know my cousin, Cal McCrystal," he replied.

"Are you a cousin of Cal McCrystal?" said another man, rising from his table. "So am I." The two men fell into intense conversation and I moved on. Northern Ireland, Beth had told me, was just one big family.

Rankin, who trained with the Roux Brothers, was at the wine list, choosing a bottle each of what turned out to be a formidable Californian chardonnay and pinot noir. I mentioned Yuike's thesis to him. He was unfazed. "We have to develop out of the siege mentality," said the Ulsterman, "and shake the place out of mediocrity. We have to learn to compete not just with Northern Ireland, but with the whole UK."

Ticking into smoked chicken with seared foie gras, calves' liver sauced with exquisite intensity, and a consummate mango cheesecake, it was not hard to concur. But whether the rest of the community would agree, one suspected, was a rather different matter.

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Capital Corp may sue rumour mongers



COMMENT

The real problem here has little to do with safety. As usual it is much more about commerce and the fact that RJR's contracts with the electricity generators come to an end at the beginning of next April.

# Don't waste any tears over Asfordby, Minister

Once the great white hope of the British coal industry, Asfordby Mine in North East Leicestershire, is to close. A copy of a confidential memo on the matter, written by a senior civil servant for the benefit of John Birtle, the industry minister, has fallen into our hands. In the interests of open government, we here reproduce it. Given the hurried nature of its preparation, it is uncharacteristically blunt.

"I wouldn't waste any tears over Asfordby if I were you. To tell the truth, everyone knew all along it was a bit of dog: it was only ever built as a sop to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, who demanded it as part of their price for supporting the Government during the Miners' strike. There were actually better sites available, but there you go. As you are no doubt learning, government is all about compromises.

"Actually it's turned out to be a rather higher price than any of us anticipated. Not that you should believe old Budge's claim that because of adverse geological conditions, it has become impossible to make it safe. Volcanic silts - I ask you! More investment on top of the £300m already spent would undoubtedly have done the trick.

"The real problem here has little to do with safety. As usual it is much more about commerce and the fact that RJR's contracts with the electricity generators come to an end at the beginning of next April. So far Mr Budge has only been able to sign up one contract to support his mines thereafter, and

that's only a short term one. "What Mr Budge is saying here is I've closed Asfordby and I'll close more if you don't force the generators to pay me a decent price for my coal. They don't have to, you see. They are progressively switching to gas and anyway, they can buy imported coal much cheaper. With the present strength of the pound, these alternative sources of fuel get cheaper by the day. Asfordby is already a lost cause; it's never going to be economic. But the rest is still up for grabs.

"So there you go. If you don't step in and force the generators to pay up, what little is left of the coal industry might all but disappear. There is a perfectly respectable line of argument to say that this would be no bad thing. Your predecessor, Tim Eggar, certainly thought so. Coal is nasty, environmentally unfriendly stuff and nobody could possibly enjoy working in a mine. As for RJR, well the Government certainly doesn't owe Mr Budge a living. He's already made back most of what he paid for British Coal. In any case, the generators will have to buy some coal from him, if not on quite the same lucrative terms as before. They cannot buy all their needs on the spot market.

"If you were wise, then, you wouldn't intervene."

When newspapers warn that markets are braced for further steep falls, they invariably fail to materialise. By the same token, however, when the City consensus is that the market is supported at current levels, it normally isn't.

After last Friday's sharp falls on both sides of the Atlantic, neither the weekend headlines nor yesterday's anti-climax should have come as any surprise. More worrying is the little insouciance with which equity strategists are writing off the prospect of a serious market correction.

Their case for doing so is little more than a variation on that old "things are different now" theme. The factors that normally kill a bull run are just not there this time round, the experts say. Inflation is a shadow of its former self, recession is a long way off and interest rates are close to peaking.

Perhaps as important, liquidity is strong, with institutions awash with cash that will eventually find its way back into the market. The bull market this year has also been very narrowly focused.

Strip out the banks, oil and pharmaceuticals and few other shares have done anything at all, which means there is still plenty of value among the second liners, especially those which have been under the cash thanks to the strength of sterling.

The final plank in this sanguine (if not exactly bullish) argument is that the corporate sector is actually handing cash back to shareholders, unlike in 1987 when a flood

of rights issues from stocks of such dubious quality as Maxwell Communications left institutions reeling.

To believe that rosy scenario, however, you have to go along with the view implicit in the short sterling market that interest rates will peak at somewhere between 7.25 and 7.5 per cent. That takes a lot on trust about the temporary nature of this summer's windfall comes summer binge and turns a blind eye to the freefall in the unemployment figures.

Although we are experiencing what the Bank of England calls its "policy pause", it has been correctly pointed out that pauses tend to be breaks between movements in the same direction. Interest rates are on the way up and probably further than the market expects. That's hardly a recipe for a continuing bull market.

hardly in the Guinness league. Even so, it cannot be too long before shareholders, and more importantly, the regulatory authorities, start demanding answers.

For starters there are accusations of phone tapping and other surveillance operations, inadequate gaming controls and questionable controls in the food and beverage department. There seems to have been open warfare amongst the board. Accusations are flying between past and present directors like confetti.

Now the company has fallen out with a group of disgruntled former employees who feel wronged by the board. On top of this there have been two unpublished external reports into the gaming and wine buyings side of the business.

Capital admits that it may not have been run the way a public company ought to be. But corrective action has now been taken, the company insists, and these things are now a thing of the past - a claim that might carry a little more credibility were it not for the fact that Gary Nesbitt, the former chairman, is still on the board.

Who's feeding out this stuff and for what purpose? Has the company really cleaned up its act or is more corrective action still needed? All these questions demand answers. It might actually benefit the company if regulators were to step in and provide some. The longer this drags on without some form of external investigation, the more Capital faces death by a thousand cuts.

## Bioglan Pharma plans £200m float next year

**Sameena Ahmad**

Bioglan Pharma, one of the UK's oldest and most profitable pharmaceutical companies, plans a £200m float on the main stock market next year.

In an unusual decision for normally cash-hungry drug groups, Bioglan, which was incorporated in 1932 and has subsidiaries in five countries, including Germany and the US, may not raise any new money when it floats.

Terry Sadler, who joined the company as chairman and chief executive in 1985, transforming it from a vitamin group to a drug delivery specialist, said Bioglan was profitable and would not need to seek new money unless it wanted to make more acquisitions, a possibility in the US.

"We have always generated enough cash internally to fund our research. We are an unusual combination. We're UK-based, we invest heavily in research and we're profitable," he said.

Since Mr Sadler joined, the company has raised finance only once, £10m with private investors last year.

The company manufactures and sells a range of prescription drugs to treat skin conditions like acne and psoriasis, but is investing in potentially lucrative drug delivery technologies.

The group, which employs 170 people, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £1.4m on turnover of £3.3m in the year to January.

When Mr Sadler joined the group was turning over £94,000 and employed three people.

Mr Sadler, who owns 56.8 per cent of Bioglan's shares, said a flotation would increase the group's attraction to big drug partners. "We want to benchmark the company. There is a tendency for big pharma companies to take a public company more seriously,"

Hitchin-based Bioglan already has licensing agreements with major drug groups, including

Merck and Novartis. Though the company currently makes its money from manufacture and sale of skin creams like Metrogel for acne and Cocosol for scalp diseases, it is investing around £3m a year in novel drug delivery technologies.

Mr Sadler plans a significant rise in R&D spend to around £17m over the next three years. "Making drugs which are easier to take has vast potential. Poor compliance is one of the biggest problems facing any pharmaceutical company trying to sell its drugs. There is a great need for methods which make taking drugs less painful and disruptive."

The company is focusing on novel protein delivery technology, the most difficult and competitive, but potentially most lucrative drug delivery market. Important proteins like insulin or human growth factor currently cannot be taken by mouth as they are broken down by the stomach and have to be injected instead. Bioglan's bios-



Terry Sadler: Transformed Bioglan from a vitamin group to a lucrative drug delivery specialist

phere technology enables molecules to be applied to the skin and released over two weeks. He expects the company's most advanced product, a gel used with antiviral drugs, to reach market by 1999. "Drug delivery companies work with existing drugs, not new chemicals. Time to market is quicker," said Mr Sadler.

Mr Sadler said a flotation would also increase stock liq-

## Microvitec warns losses will continue

Microvitec, the troubled computer software house, crashed into the red yesterday for the sixth month to June and warned it would remain loss-making in the second half.

The comments were the latest in a string of profits warnings from the company which has been hit by the strength of sterling and a slump in sales at its largest division.

Operating losses of £2.9m compared with a profit in the first half of 1996 of £1.85m. Only the disposal of two of its subsidiaries during the period created any attributable profit and earnings per share of 0.1p compared with 1.4p a year ago. There will be no interim dividend (0.425p).

James Bailey, chairman, said: "In summary, this has been a very difficult period for the group. However, corrective action has been taken in the Display Division which has been primarily responsible for the poor first-half performance."

Microvitec's computer display business was hit during the period by the decision of financial information group Bloomberg to move out of the hardware market. Sales to Bloomberg were worth £7.2m in the first half of 1996. Their absence contributed to a 47 per cent slump in turnover.

## Merrydown hit by departure of finance chief

**Clifford German**

Merrydown, the troubled cider group, has lost its finance director just months after the departure of its sales director. The management shake-out comes after disappointing results caused by plummeting sales of Two Dogs Lemonade in the wake of the public outcry about alcopops. However chairman and chief executive Richard Pudney has so far survived the group restructuring.

Stephen Burke, Merrydown's finance director since April 1994, has left the company with immediate effect, and will be replaced by its deputy, Michael Dennis. Sales director Alan Rutherford left earlier this summer and will not be replaced.

Mr Burke, is expected to receive a pay-off of around £150,000, based on a two-year contract and a basic salary of £54,950 and a remuneration package of £88,365 according to the last accounts. An auditor by training, he was formerly group acquisitions manager at Dunhill Holdings. He had no immediate plans for the future, a spokesman for the company said.

Company sales fell by 5 per cent and profits more than halved to just £820,000 in the year to the end of March, even worse than the market had expected following a profit warning earlier in the year. When the results were announced last month the company admitted that the board was top-heavy for a company with a market capitalisation of little more than £5m, and announced its intention of reducing administrative costs by up to £1.5m.

But the City had openly speculated that the 55-year-old Richard Pudney would himself be a casualty, and that he would either retire completely or become a non-executive chairman, passing executive control to the managing director.

The company has been a victim of the price war between the larger UK cider makers and the failure of Two Dogs, which pioneered the craze for alcopops two years ago, and helped to generate profits of just over £2m in the year to March 1996. The popularity of alcopops has waned in recent months and several supermarket groups have withdrawn it from their shelves.

Merrydown still makes Two Dogs, but the marketing and distribution was transferred to Scottish Courage in April. Scottish Courage will also provide the marketing and advertising spend. Merrydown's shares edged up 0.5p to 60.5p yesterday.

## IN BRIEF

### Franchise industry declared out of touch

More than two thirds of franchisors withdraw from the market within the first 10 years of being in business, while 50 per cent leave within the first five years, according to a study of 1,600 UK retail franchises conducted by accountants KPMG. The report argues that franchising is not as successful as many in the industry believe. It says the franchise industry places excessive stress on uniformity and conformity, an approach which is out of touch in today's competitive business market.

### Burmah pays £28m for SMC

Burmah Castrol, the chemicals group, has purchased SMC, a foundry chemicals business, from Germany's Dynamit Nobel AG, for £28m. It is also selling Columbia Cement, its US-based adhesives company, for £15m. Burmah said it will report an exceptional pre-tax profit of £17m from the Columbia Cement sale, relating to goodwill. Burmah said the deals are in line with its focus of repositioning the chemicals portfolio and giving greater focus to its foundry, steelmills, construction and screen printing inks businesses.

### Kvaerner wins £140m Sellafeld contract

Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering and shipping group, is heading a consortium which has won £140m contract to design and build a radioactive waste facility for British Nuclear Fuel at Sellafeld. Tarmac, the construction group, AEA Technology and Design Group Partnership are also part of the winning team.

### Strong pound hits two thirds of firms

Two thirds of UK companies have suffered from the recent strength of sterling according to a survey of corporate treasurers by Record of Sterling Management. Eighty-six per cent of treasurers favour Treasury Management. Eighty-six per cent of treasurers favour Treasury Management. Eighty-six per cent of treasurers favour Treasury Management.

### Profits rise at Wilson & Horton

Wilson & Horton, the New Zealand subsidiary of Independent Newspapers which owns 46 per cent of the publisher of The In-News, announced a 17 per cent increase in post-tax profits dependent, announced a 17 per cent increase in post-tax profits dependent, announced a 17 per cent increase in post-tax profits dependent.

### Quintain completes £79.5m disposal

Quintain Estates, the property investor, has completed the £79.5m disposal of the majority of the properties it acquired with the acquisition of Fiscal Properties to Fieldmore. Part of the proceeds will go to repay the £49.3m loan it took out to purchase Fiscal.

### Abbey National raises saving rates

Abbey National is the latest bank to raise interest rates in line with the recent quarter point rise in base rates. Investor 90 day savings account will rise by 0.25 per cent by August 20.

### Prestbury not set to buy Domino's Pizza

Prestbury Leisure yesterday denied press reports that it would acquire Domino's Pizza, saying it had not reached any acquisition agreements. The company said that although "discussions have taken place with a number of parties regarding future acquisitions, at this stage no agreements have been reached."

## Carpet king nets £15m for property group

**John Wilcock**

Lord Harris of Peckham, the carpet king, and his family have made £15.6m from the sale of their private retail property company. The tycoon has sold C W Harris Properties to Pillar Property, the quoted property investor that specialises in retail warehouse parks and shopping centres.

Over the past three years Lord Harris has built a property portfolio consisting mainly of out-of-town retail freeholds. CW Harris owns five retail warehouse schemes and a high street shop in St Albans. The warehouses are in Luton, Orpington, Dartford, Carmarthen and Preston and have a total floor-space of 350,000 square feet and an annual rent income of £3.5m.

Pillar is paying for the deal with 30 per cent cash (£12.4m) and 20 per cent of shares (£3.2m) valued at 231p a share. Lord Harris's family has agreed

not to sell the shares for at least six months.

Pillar has been built up by chairman Raymond Mould and his colleague Patrick Vaughan. The duo came to fame when they founded the Arlington group of business parks in the 1980s, before selling up to British Aerospace. They formed Pillar in 1991 and floated it three years later. This latest deal brings Pillar's total number of retail parks to 20.

Lord Harris said yesterday that he had "every confidence in the management of Pillar and the future success of the company." He said he was pleased because his family would be holding 1.2 million Pillar shares.

All the warehouse developments sold to Pillar are fully let to tenants like Lord Harris's Carpetright group, as well as Currys, Halfords, Homebase, MFI and B&Q. The average unexpired lease length is 18 years. The investment properties of Harris Properties are valued at

## Littlechild urged to stand firm on electricity cuts

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, was yesterday urged to stand firm over his bid to slash electricity prices by more than £30 a customer, despite intense pressure from suppliers to scrap his latest proposals.

The Electricity Consumers' Committee insisted the plans for a cap on bills was the only way to guarantee benefits to customers when domestic competition starts from next April.

Professor Littlechild has already proposed maximum tariffs for regional electricity companies (RECs) for the first time, compared with the current price regime where higher generating costs can be passed through to bills.

He has that estimated the move would cut average bills by 12 per cent next year, to £238 excluding VAT.

Yvonne Constance, chairman of the ECC, said the new system would mean RECs would "be forced to negotiate hard with the generators to win the lowest prices for those consumers who do not switch to new suppliers." She added that the maximum tariff was "the only way to achieve this key purpose."

The regulator will reveal the latest proposals for electricity supply price controls tomorrow. The final plans are due to be published on 22 September. October to accept or reject the controls.

Some RECs have already warned Professor Littlechild and John Battle, the industry minister, that they could take the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They claimed their profit margins on electricity supply, the element of hills being opened to competition, would plunge into losses of up to £50m for each REC.

### Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

New business rates effective from 18 August 1997

	Gross %	Gross CAR %
<b>MoneyMaster</b>		
Up to £5,000	3.46	3.50
£5,000+	3.76	3.80
£25,000+	4.05	4.10
£100,000+	4.10	4.15
£250,000+	4.34	4.40
<b>Premium Business Account</b>		
£5,000+	4.80	4.90
£25,000+	5.28	5.40
£100,000+	5.51	5.65
£250,000+	5.70	5.85
<b>Clients Premium Deposit Account</b>		
£25,000+	4.70	4.75
£100,000+	5.14	5.20
<b>Education Account</b>		
Up to £25,000	4.61	4.70
£25,000+	5.09	5.21
<b>Treasurer Account</b>		
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
£2,000+	2.23	2.25
£10,000+	4.17	4.25

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compound Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.  
All rates quoted are per annum.  
With effect from the 7th August 1997 Midland Bank's Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% to 7.00% p.a.

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## business

# Taylor Nelson earmarks up to £30m for overseas buying spree

Cathy Newman

Taylor Nelson AG, the UK's largest market research company, is planning to spend up to £30m on foreign acquisitions. It is planning a spending spree to take advantage of cheap buying opportunities abroad created by the strong pound.

The company said yesterday it had £10m in cash to make overseas purchases, in particular in Eastern Europe. Analysts predicted Taylor Nelson could comfortably spend £25-30m on expansion, through a combination of cash and debt.

Tony Cowling, chief executive, said the strength of the pound provided a golden opportunity for a UK company to

expand internationally. He said he was "actively" identifying acquisitions, and would anticipate closing a deal in the next six months, if the price was right. Mr Cowling added that Taylor Nelson would like to buy in Russia and Scandinavia, but said prices in the US and the Far East were prohibitive.

Strong profits from its most recent acquisition – a Danish company that deals in audience measurement of TV, radio, and press, which it bought for £6m three months ago – encouraged it to look at the possibilities of expansion in Northern Europe. Reporting a 38 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £5.5m for the first half of the year, Mr Cowling said the company's

media, healthcare and consumer divisions had all performed well. Turnover for the TV audience measurement division was up 229 per cent.

Analysts were impressed with the figures. Paul Richards, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said he would be issuing a "buy" note today as they were a "cracking set of results".

Mr Richards said Taylor Nelson's consumer research division had benefited from a buoyant economy, and a growing demand for market research expertise from retailers launching loyalty cards.

He said the company should have no problem taking on debt for future growth. "Buying in Europe makes so much sense at

the moment because you get so much for your pound."

Mr Cowling said a number of "nasty problems" had been solved. Cost-cutting in the group's French operations had yielded returns, and last year's purchase of the Market Research Bureau of Ireland had beefed up the Irish business.

The disposal of a loss-making subsidiary, MRM, the leaflet distributor, at the end of last year had also helped matters. Mr Cowling said the difficulties of MRM, which Taylor Nelson bought two years ago, had taught him a "good lesson" not to get involved in businesses too far removed from the core market research area.

Turnover in the business di-

vision fell 11 per cent due to the loss of a contract with BT in the first half of the year. However, Mr Cowling said yesterday a new piece of business from BT would make up for the lost contract in the second half.

Taylor Nelson already has a presence in Romania, Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic. The company is running a pilot research project with half a dozen clients in Russia measuring consumption of soft drinks, snacks and confectionery. Taylor Nelson is also considering exporting some of its most successful UK research products such as the healthcare operation. A European service to measure people's health is being piloted.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

# Argos catalogues reasons why the boom will not last

As soothsayers go, Argos chief executive Mike Smith is well known for erring on the side of caution. But yesterday, the downbeat retailer surprised himself. Never mind all the hype about a consumer boom – it won't last, was his message. The windfall factor is a one-off he says, interest rates rises will start to have an effect and by the end of the year, consumers will not be feeling half as chipper.

Given recent analysis of the economic effects of the windfall payments he is probably right. Sadly, it is not what Argos investors really want to hear.

After two years during which Argos appeared to walk on water, the catalogue retailer has lost its glitter this year after two profits warnings. The shares, which were riding high at almost 800p last October, have dribbled down to 621.5p, after a 1.5p drop yesterday.

So what the market was looking for were signs that the company might be set to recapture the premium rating of yesterday. Sadly that appears some way off. What Argos now appears to be is a good, solid operator, in a competitive, mature market.

Yesterday's half-year figures were in line with the reduced expectations, with pre-tax profits of £28m against £32m the previous year, hit by some one-off costs.

The company is trying to go for growth but the market is concerned it will not come soon enough. At home, it printed more catalogues with wider ranges and cut the margin by 0.5 per cent to grow sales. More is being spent on advertising and promotion and a store opening programme to take the number of outlets from the current 433 to around 700 is still in place.

Home delivery is now offered in all stores but the £5 charge will only cover the costs of the service. The First Stop trial of low-priced electrical goods shops is being kept at just three stores for the time being with no new openings planned for the rest of the year.

The worry is that at a boom time for consumer electronics and furniture, group like-for-like sales grew by a modest 5.3 per cent in the half year and 8 per cent since then.

## Severfield profits surge

Severfield-Reeve has achieved the improbable. It has made fabricating steel skeletons for buildings a sexy business. Over the past three years, the company's share price has outperformed the market by over 420 per cent. And yesterday's interim results did not disappoint.

Even after losses from the food hygiene side, pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose 116 per cent to £4m on turnover ahead 88 per cent to £52m. Though Rowen, the fabricator bought for a snip last year probably contributed around half the sales, Severfield's original steel business is in fine shape, with output up 36 per cent to record levels.

So what is Severfield's secret? For a start, the company is the UK's biggest player with 16 per cent of the market and no near rival. Its size means it is winning larger and increas-

ingly international contracts with blue-chip players, like Siemens – in the period, 27 per cent of core business sales were exports. And as a bigger player it can keep raw material costs low, buying in bulk from British Steel. Moreover, as the strong pound squeezes weaker exporters out, Severfield continues to take share.

Severfield's defining quality, though, is a ruthless attention to efficiency. Compared with the industry average of nine man hours taken to process a tonne of steel, Severfield can do the job in five. John Sever, MD, aims for four.

That is good news for margin prospects at Rowen. New production processes have already raised Rowen's returns from 1.6 per cent at acquisition to 5 per cent. As a more specialist, designer fabricator, Rowen's margins may not match group returns of nearly 10 per cent, but there is clearly room for improvement.

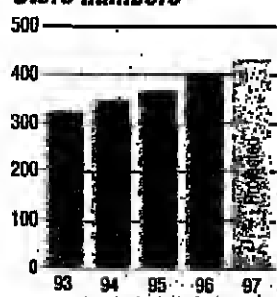
The one black spot is loss-making Manabo, which specialises in chain-mail gloves and knife washers to improve food hygiene. Escalating mad cow costs have, ironically, left customers with no money to spend on upgrading their food hygiene equipment. With legislation enforcing new hygiene standards looking remote, Manabo should be sold.

House broker Hoare Govett forecasts £8m this year and £10.3 for 1998. The shares, down 3p to 491.5p, are on a still tempting prospective rating of 18 this year and 14 times the next.

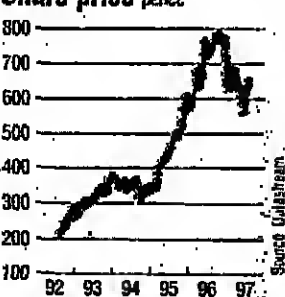
## Argos: At a glance

Trading record	94	95	96	95/96	96/97
Turnover (£m)	1,257	1,436	1,660	561	627
Pre-tax profits (£m)	100.2	124.4	141.4	31.8	28.1
Earnings per share (p)	22.3	27.5	32.5	7.06	6.76
Dividends per share (p)	11.25	13.9	16.0	5.3	6.1

## Store numbers



## Share price



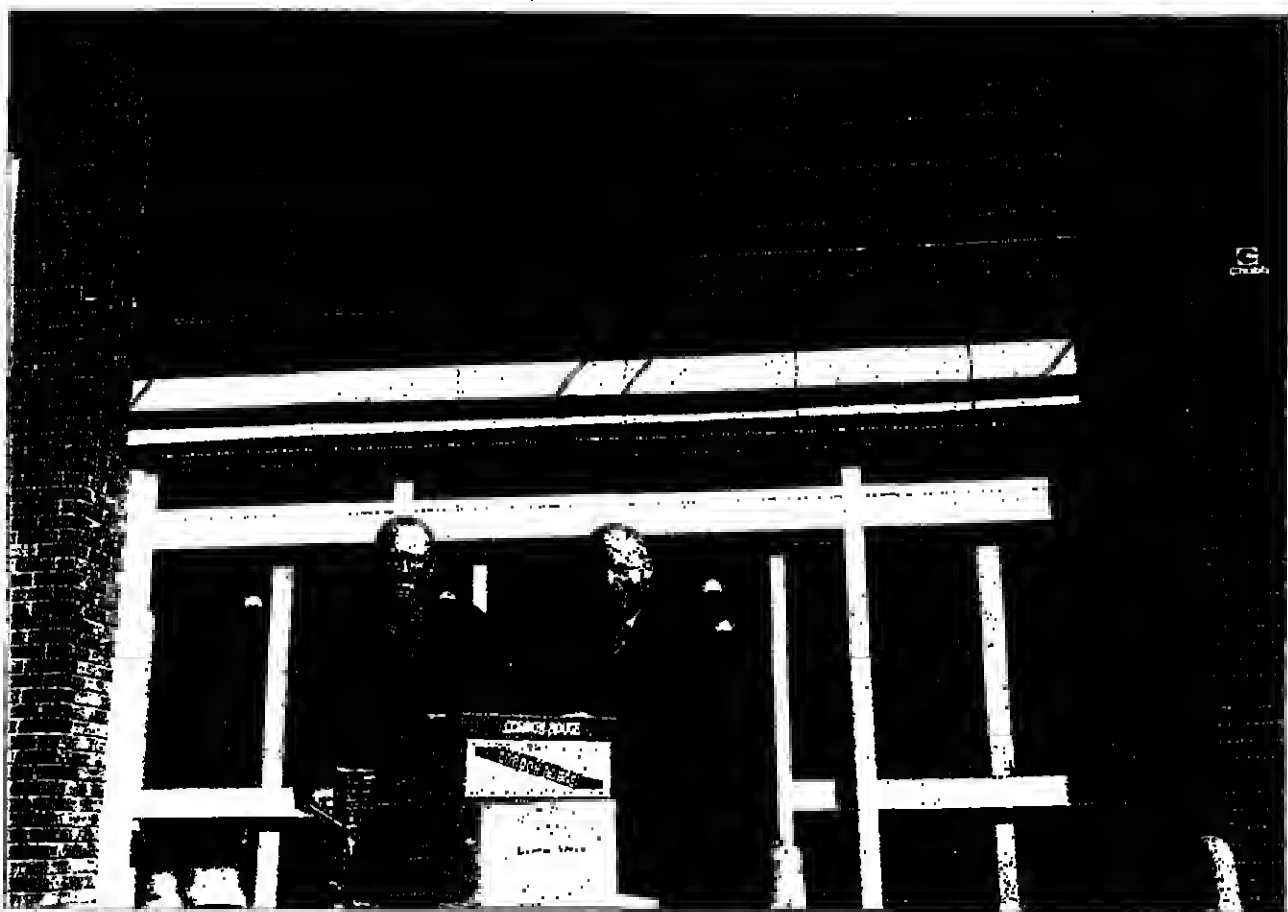
## Victoria opens wine mega-store

Sameena Ahmad

Victoria Wine, the off-licence chain owned by Allied Domecq, is launching its first drinks superstore to rival the supermarkets for a share of Britain's £7bn take-home drinks business. Martha's Vineyard, a 5,000 sq ft warehouse based in New Barnet in Hertfordshire, opens next Saturday.

Allied Domecq plans to open a chain of superstores in an attempt to stop the trend of drinker's buying booze in Tesco or Sainsbury. It is already searching for more UK sites for the Martha's concept and hopes to open three more stores next year.

Michael Hammond, managing director of Victoria Wine, said: "We are targeting people who do not already use our shops, who may currently buy their drinks at supermarkets. Martha's Vineyard will give



Michael Hammond (right), managing director of Victoria Wine, outside Martha's Vineyard in New Barnet

them... easy parking, massive choice, knowledgeable staff and very keen prices."

The store, which has been sited in New Barnet because it has "an above average prolif-

eration of known wine drinkers," will be designed like a supermarket, with self selection in wide aisles and shopping trolleys to encourage bulk purchases.

There will also be opportunities to taste the wine on offer. Customers will be able to choose from some 650 wines and will get a 10 per cent discount on large purchases.

Analysts said the news would put supermarket's already thin margins under further pressure. The move will dampen speculation that Allied is looking to sell Victoria Wine.

# Volkswagen profits soar on weakening mark

Cathy Newman

Volkswagen, the largest car manufacturer in Europe, boosted profits for the first half of the year by 73 per cent, thanks to a combination of cost-cutting and a weaker German mark.

The company, which sells vehicles under the VW, Skoda, Seat and Audi brand-names, saw net profit surge to DM488m (£166m) as foreign sales were helped by a drop in the value of the mark, which has fallen almost 5 per cent against a basket of currencies of the country's big trading partners.

The number of cars it sold rose 10 per cent to nearly 2.2 million, despite a drop in domestic sales.

Analysts said the figures were mainly in line with expectations, and that lower tax charges had

helped. Francois Colli, an analyst at Paribas Capital Markets in London, said: "The trend is good but the numbers are broadly in line with market expectations. Volume, currency and cost-cutting all contributed."

Followers of VW said the car manufacturer was reaping the benefits of a recovery launched by Ferdinand Piech, chief executive, four years ago.

Volkswagen, which is to preview its new Golf model this evening in Bonn, said it expected full-year net profit to exceed last year's level of DM678m despite the risks associated with new launches.

The new Golf will be available to the public in October. VW said yesterday: "For the second half of the current year, we expect business to develop positively if the current economic

conditions continue. Although the launch of new products also entails risks, we expect 1997 pre-tax and net profit to be higher than last year at group and parent company level."

Sales only increased 12 per cent to DM56.5bn, but VW managed to increase the amount of money it earned per vehicle. Sales outside Germany rose 13.9 per cent, making up for a 1.5 per cent decline in domestic sales. The introduction of an updated version of the Golf had impacted sales of the existing model, the company said yesterday.

Andrew Blair-Smith, at BZW in Frankfurt, was fairly bullish about VW's future. "The momentum at VW is still improving and that was particularly evident in the second quarter," he said.

# Moorfields to build Xanadu in Lancashire

Clifford German

Moorfields Estates, a small, London-based property investment and development group led by two former top-rated property analysts, hopes to leap into the big time by leading a consortium to build Xanadu, a £150m sports and leisure park in Lancashire.

The size of the proposed development, which will include an 80,000 sq ft hotel and retail complex on a 70 acre site between Liverpool and Manchester, dwarfs Moorfield's market value of under £40m.

The proposition has yet to win planning permission or financial backing, but the consortium, which applied for planning permission yesterday, consists of a local developer, Greenbank Partnerships, Acer Snowmex, a subsidiary of Hyder, the Welsh water and electricity utility, and Wigan borough council.

Twin themes of the leisure complex will be skiing and aquatics, housed in a 1.5m sq ft domed building. It will contain an alpine village and a 375,000 sq ft skiing facility with a new kind of "real" snow, providing ski runs and snowboarding. It will also have a 165,000 sq ft aquatics centre, featuring a 50m pool approved for competitions up to Olympic standard, and a leisure pool with indoor facilities. The aquatics

complex has already been approved in principle by the Sports Lottery Evaluation Panel and the English Sports Council.

The complex will also include a megaplex cinema and a screen-based "virtual reality experience". Construction could start in 1999, and altogether the complex could create 5,000 construction jobs and 2,500 permanent jobs once the complex is up and running.

"Strong interest is already being expressed by major leisure and retail space users. As a result we are extremely confident of pre-letting much of the scheme while the proposal goes through the planning process," Marc Gilbard, Moorfield's chief executive, said yesterday.

The project was also welcomed by the leader of Wigan council, Mr Peter Smith, who said: "Xanadu will send out a positive image of the borough, a location where the unexpected can and does happen."

Moorfields made a profit of £59,000 last year under its new management led by Mr Gilbard and Graham Stanley, two former property analysts at Goldman Sachs, whose ambitions are to shake up the UK property sector. It unsuccessfully attempted to take over its higher rival Greycoat last year with an all-share offer worth £214m.

The shares were unchanged at 26p yesterday.

## Ultra defends its premium rating

Investors in Ultra Electronics, the MBO which floated at 250p last September, have had a switchback ride. Shares in the electronic systems group rose to 332p in January before dipping to 251p a couple of months ago. But profits have moved steadily higher reflecting a strong performance from both its air and sea systems businesses.

Of the overall 24 per cent rise in sales for the six months to June to £72m and 17 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £9m, air systems' sales rose a quarter to £46m, of which 16 per cent was organic and sea systems' sales rose 22 per cent to £26m, virtually all organic growth.

New orders led to a slight dilution in profit margins because of the need to spend on research and development. The order book has grown from £174m at the year-end to £230m in June, including £9m from last year's ac-

quisitions in the US – Flightline Electronics and EMS.

Both the military and civilian aerospace markets are buoyant at the moment. The group's biggest single contract, to supply equipment to the Nimrod 2000 programme, has grown to £53m, spread over the next five years. On the sea side, the Batch II Trafalgar submarine programme and the Korean destroyer programme should bring in new orders.

Defence-based companies do not normally get or deserve a premium rating, but yesterday's figures beat expectations. Albert E Sharp has upgraded forecasts for the full year from £17m to £17.4m. In an otherwise weak market the shares rose 3.5p to 296p, putting them on a prospective p/e ratio of just under 16. That is cheaper than established rivals Smiths Industries and Cobham which enjoy a rating of around 20 times. Attractive.

# GEC and Kvaerner share in Chinese dam contract

Clifford German

GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French engineering group, and Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group, appear to have won an important part of an \$800m (£500m) contract to provide eight of the first 14 turbines to be installed at The Three Gorges dam in China.

The dam, which will attempt to tame the Yangtze River, will be the largest in the world and will cost up to US\$30bn (£19bn) to build. But statements from the two companies yesterday left the precise status of the contracts in doubt.

A statement from Kvaerner in Oslo said its Kvaerner Design and Technology unit had been chosen to deliver the eight turbines. The core components for five of the turbines will be produced under the management of Kvaerner Energy in Norway and China. The three other turbines will be produced by GEC Alsthom based on a Kvaerner

design, the company said. But a parallel announcement from GEC Alsthom in Paris said talks with China over its part of the Three Gorges dam project had not been completed.

"We have high hopes that the contract will be finalised in coming weeks, but it has not been finalised yet," a GEC Alsthom spokesman said.

Industry sources suggested GEC Alsthom was not satisfied with the size of its part of the contract and hoped to negotiate better terms before the final signature. According to the sources, GEC Alsthom's share of the total £500m order is around £125m, less than that of the rival bidder Siemens, the German electronics giant.

Other consortia bidding for a share in the contract include Siemens and Voith of Germany and General Electric of the US, and Asca Brown Boveri the jointly owned Swiss and Swedish engineering group

based in Zurich. Last week a Siemens spokesman in Feking was quoted by Agence France Presse as saying its consortium would supply six of the 14 turbines and generators required for the first phase of the project, while ABB would provide eight generators.

The Chinese Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development, the Chinese government body awarding contracts has so far refused to be drawn on the winning bids, although it has promised an announcement in the next few days.

The initial contract for turbines and generators is only a small part of the total cost of the project but is being keenly fought because of the too-hold the winning suppliers will create in potentially the world's biggest market.

When finished in 2009 the project will have created a dam capable of generating enough electricity to supply 10 per cent of China's electricity needs.

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## market report / shares

Taking Stock

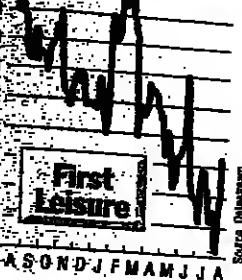
## Footsie refuses to oblige the bears with a meltdown

## Data Bank

FTSE 100	4835.0	-30.8
FTSE 250	4663.6	-34.6
FTSE 350	2340.6	-15.3
SEAQ VOLUME	595.9m shares,	
	49,041 bargains	
Gilt Index	96.98	+0.25

## Share spotlight

Share price, pence



For the second Monday in succession the so-called Footsie refused to oblige the bears with a meltdown. True, Footsie was off 86.5 points in early trading. And it suffered a downhill session - at the close the index was off 30.8 at 4,835, a poor but hardly disastrous display.

Sellers were conspicuous by their absence; so were buyers. Trading was low even by the undemanding standards of the holiday season. Indeed turnover would have looked particularly woeful if special deals had not gone through.

What appeared to be a dividend-washing exercise at BT contributed 34.5 million to volume and more than 100 'B' share buy-backs accounted for another 68.6 million. So real turnover was for the first time for a long while below the important 500 million level.

The spectre of another crash, as the tenth anniversary

of the 1987 disaster approaches, is haunting the market. It is a superstitious place. And uncomfortable anniversary attacks invariably produce acute attacks of the jitters.

Even so Friday's slump was surprising. It occurred without a realistic excuse. Many fund managers and strategists were quick to reiterate their view that blue chips were hopelessly overvalued and a dramatic correction was on the way.

There is no doubt that blue chips, after their heavy progress this year, are fragile and it does not take much to erode confidence. But yesterday's performance will be seen by the more hush observers as an encouraging response to Friday's retreat.

Still, the immediate Footsie outlook is dominated by New York. If, as expected, US interest rates remain unchanged today the general view, which



## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

is so often wrong, is that the US market will turn on another spectacular display.

The well-flagged recovery by supporting shares was halted, only temporarily in the eyes of many. The FTSE 250 index gave up 34.6 points and the FTSE Smallcap 14.8.

Bass, up 11.5p to 839p, and Ladbrokes, 3.5p to 253.5p, were spurred by the bookies' legal victory against Camelot over the 49p fixed-odds numbers game. Camelot will appeal against the decision of magistrate Ronald Bartle.

The brewing giant also gained strength from renewed stories that it is thinking of pouncing on First Leisure

Corporation, the discotheque to health and fitness group. The market is convinced Bass, blocked by the Government from buying the Carlsberg brewery operation, needs at least one big deal to recapture its momentum.

There is a strong body of opinion that it will descend on William Hill, the betting chain representing the last significant asset of the tottering Brest Walker (unchanged at 1.5p). Talk of a hotel swoop is also in the air.

However, FLC, headed by ex-Channel Four chief Michael Grade, could make an attractive buy for the sprawling brewer. It already operates in

some FLC areas such as bingo and bowling alleys and could see the group's other interests as offering a natural diversification. FLC shares rose 11.5p to 322.5p. They were, before disappointing trading eroded sentiment, around 400p last year. Any Bass bid, it is thought, would be pitched near the 400p level.

BT, still largely on US buying, continued its revival, again topping the blue chip leader board with a 6p gain to 231p. National Power, up 11p to 518.5p, was pushed on yield considerations.

Banks, which led this year's Footsie charge, were generally lower with HSBC, hit by SBC Warburg, the main casualty. The securities house moved from add to hold, cutting the recently high-flying shares by 70.5p to 2,097p.

Sears, the unhappy retailer, added 2.5p to 62p, against turn-of-the-year suggestions

the shares were worth 120p. PFD, the market's most entrenched bear, was bargain hunting, lifting its stake by 4.4 per cent to 20.5 per cent. Storehouse's rally continued with a 7p gain to 228.5p.

Safeway's latest price-cutting campaign left the supermarket chain off 7.5p to 379p. Dixons added 8p to 609.5p with stockbroker Sutherland pointing to a 67p target price.

A cross below the then market price clipped Kenwood, the domestic appliance group, which seems to have resisted the overtures of smaller rival Pifco, 14p to 103.5p, a low.

RJB Mining, on its mine closure and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson sell advice, fell 5p to 312.5p.

Prebent Leisure, a little sportswear company which came to market in April, rose 0.5p to 2.75p after confirming talks with possible bid targets. Chairman Mike Edelson had been expected to use the company as a vehicle for bringing a football club to market via a reverse takeover. But Domino's Pizza, a home delivery business where entrepreneurial investor Nigel Wray has 20 per cent, is now regarded as the most likely acquisition. Domino's, owned by a US group, has more than 130 outlets in this country.

Gibbon, the printing ink group, rose 8.5p to 123.5p, a three day 27p improvement. Investment presentations in Scotland are behind the activity. Paul Spencer at stockbroker Granville Davies is looking for profits of £2m this year and £2.2m next.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. For assistance, call our helpline 075 4378 6000 (9.00am - 5.00pm). Calf cost 80p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

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The index shows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London stock exchange. Simply dial 0891 223 333, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

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## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open	4794.00	Down 718	11.00	4830.70	Down 351	14.00	4836.90	Down 260
9.00	4802.00	Down 596	12.00	4842.00	Down 238	16.00	4847.00	Down 191
10.00	4810.00	Down 548	13.00	4844.00	Down 210	Close	4835.00	Down 308

## High/Low Stock

High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Stock	Price
4835.00	4835.00	FTSE 100	4835.00	4835.00	4835.00	FTSE 100	4835.00

## Telecommunications

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Retailers, Food

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Retailers, General

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Pharmaceuticals

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Printing &amp; Paper

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Property

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Life Assurance

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Media

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Insurance

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## International

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Government Securities

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Mediums

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Longs

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Shorts

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Undated

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Recent Issues

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

## Rights Issues

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

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BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p

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BT	42,000	231p	BT	42,000	231p







# YORK EBOR MEETING: An opening day opportunity for the Derby winner to confirm his status in a contender for race of the year

## Benny the tip to prove International standard

GREG WOOD

It is a reminder of the remarkable depth of quality in the middle-distance division at present that the opening day of the Ebor meeting at York presents us with the first candidate for the "race of the decade" for, well, at least three weeks. And while even Max Clifford might think that the opening day of the Ebor meeting at York presents us with the first candidate for the "race of the decade" for, well, at least three weeks. And while even Max Clifford might think that the opening day of the Ebor meeting at York presents us with the first candidate for the "race of the decade" for, well, at least three weeks.

It is true that just four runners will go to post, the smallest field in the race's 25-year history, but rarely, if ever, can the cast list for a Group One event have consisted entirely of horses with previous Group One victories to their credit. Add to that the fact that, with the arguable exception of Singpiel, all of them are racing over what appears to be their ideal trip, on going which would confer neither favour nor disadvantage, and it is clear that something very special will unfold on the Knaresborough today.

Those with a taste for mischief might point out that the only thing which the International Stakes is the presence of Kieren Fallon aboard one of Bosra Sham's rivals, Fallon's desperately ill-judged performance on Henry Cecil's filly in the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown last month cost him the ride on the favourite this afternoon, and the possibility that he might exact a little sporting revenge would certainly have added an extra dash of spice.

None the less, the human roll-call today is also of the highest quality, since Frankie Dettori (Singpiel), Fallon's replacement, Fat Eddery, and Michael Kinane, who rides the Irish Derby winner, Desert King, would be most people's choice as the best three riders in Europe.

Joining them is Willie Ryan, whose bold display on Benny The Dip, his mount today, in the Derby at Epsom was itself a performance of which any of today's jockeys would be proud. And it may well be that the deciding factor will be the crucial tactical decisions each will have to take in the early stages of the race.

"It is a high quality field," John Gosden, Benny The Dip's trainer, said yesterday. "You couldn't find two better older horses than Bosra Sham and Singpiel, and the other two were Derby winners. But it is unfortunate when these races cut up to 'Mickey Mouse' fields. We had one at Newbury on Saturday and another in the Eclipse, and you get muddling races. I just hope we get a truly-run race."

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Silver Patriarch (York 3.45)  
NB: Zarnack (Folkestone 3.25)

"The false pace in the Eclipse didn't suit Benny The Dip as he was coming back to them at the end, suggesting he would have been suited by faster, and he is proven over a mile and a half."

Henry Cecil was adamant after the Eclipse Stakes that the lack of a sound pace in the early stages had contributed to his filly's defeat, which makes it a little surprising that Bosra Sham's connections do not supply her with a pacemaker today.

Benny The Dip made all the running to win the Dante Stakes over this course and distance in May, but despite Gosden's comments, it seems unlikely that Ryan will set a fierce gallop today and play into the favourite's hands.

With those doubts, and Bosra Sham's recent foot problems, it would be folly to back her at odds hovering close to even money. Two of her three rivals, meanwhile, also arrive with serious queries over their ability to produce their best, since Desert King, winner of the 2,000 Guineas and Derby in his native Ireland, has run deplorably on his two previous visits to Britain, and Singpiel could well need rather long to recover from an exhausting King George on unforgiving ground.

This leaves punters looking squarely at an obvious slice of value, BENNY THE DIP (nap 3.10) may not be the finest Derby winner of the decade, but he is almost certainly best at today's trip, and could well be allowed to set a pace which suits him, rather than his rivals, just as he did in the Dante. A fierce barrier, he should prove very difficult to pass as he gallops along the rail inside the final furlong today, and at 5-1, he is an irresistible bet to hold on all the way to the line.

The International Stakes is the obvious highlight this afternoon, but the supporting card is fascinating too, with a mixture of classic prospects, potentially top-class juveniles and some of the best stayers in training.

The two-year-old event which opens the card has been won by Revogue and Grand Lodge in recent years, and with five once-raced, unbeaten colts in the field, not to mention Fat Eddery's promising Merlin's Ring, this could prove to be a very significant race, albeit one which makes little appeal for punters. Teapot Row (2.05) may come out on top, but more solid betting opportunities will be provided by Double Eclipse (2.35), who gets a vital 9/10 from Celerie, the Ascot Gold Cup winner, and Stowaway (next best 3.45), who can make a place in the St Leger field with victory in the Great Voltigeur Stakes.

Camelot fail in court threat in bookmakers' 49's bet, page 5



Benny The Dip proved his liking for York by winning the Dante Stakes in May and can follow up in the International Stakes today  
Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

## Eddery hits top but hit by ban

Pat Eddery reached his century for the season at Windsor yesterday, but his championship hopes received a jolt when he was handed a three-day ban for careless riding. The reigning champion hit the top for the 24th time in the last 25 years when scoring on Salmon Ladder and Risque Lady. But sandwiched between those successes came his suspension when second on Lasham in the Early Nurey Hadicap.

Roy Cochrane and Vic Soane had their explanations recorded over the running of a two-year-old at the meeting. The pair were called before the

stewards after Persian Sabre, having her third run, finished sixth, beaten approximately eight lengths behind Risque Lady, in the EBF Maiden Stakes. Cochrane told the stewards that he was instructed to settle the filly in behind, to cover her up and to come with a long run. He said that he was denied a clear run in the last two furlongs.

Soane, Persian Sabre's trainer, confirmed the riding instructions, expressed his satisfaction with Cochrane's riding and added that the filly had been very fractious in the stalls on her previous run at

Newbury. However the stewards, after viewing the video, decided to record their explanations.

Michael Stoute yesterday announced that the leading Ebor fancy Mohawk River—12-1 with William Hill—is a definite runner in tomorrow's big handicap at York. The trainer also said that the £100,000-added race is the "preferred option" for Purist, who bypasses an alternative engagement today. Purist, set to carry 7st 10lb and also 12-1 with William Hill, was withdrawn from this afternoon's Great Voltigeur Stakes yesterday morning.

However, final plans for the Yarmouth winner Purist could depend on whether Robert Armstrong wins the top weight Kutta, in whose absence the weights would rise 4lb.

Armstrong said: "If the ground is good to soft Kutta will run. They had a quarter of an inch of rain last night but it will need more if he is to run." Like several other recent Group races, Saturday's Celebration Mile at Goodwood will suffer from a small field. Only five horses—Cape Cross, Among Men, Peartree House, Polar Prince and Witton—were left in the Group Two event yesterday.

## YORK

2.05 Merlin's Ring  
2.35 Double Eclipse  
3.10 Benny The Dip  
3.45 Stowaway (nb)

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: 4 of 77—stands rule; round course—breaks  
DRAW ADVANTAGES: None.  
LEADERSHIP: Benny The Dip, 1st; Double Eclipse, 2nd; Stowaway, 3rd; Merlin's Ring, 4th.

LEADING TRAINERS: If Cecil 27 winners from 100 runners gives a success rate of 27%, he would be 1st in the list. J. Gosden 19 from 100 (19.0%), D. Begg 18 from 100 (18.0%), M. Stoute 17 from 100 (17.0%), R. Hannon 16 from 100 (16.0%), M. Appleby 15 from 100 (15.0%), M. Channon 14 from 100 (14.0%), M. Ryan 13 from 100 (13.0%), M. Dineen 12 from 100 (12.0%), M. Johnston 11 from 100 (11.0%), M. W. Ryan 10 from 100 (10.0%), M. D. Smith 9 from 100 (9.0%), M. J. Ryan 8 from 100 (8.0%), M. J. Ryan 7 from 100 (7.0%), M. J. Ryan 6 from 100 (6.0%), M. J. Ryan 5 from 100 (5.0%), M. J. Ryan 4 from 100 (4.0%), M. J. Ryan 3 from 100 (3.0%), M. J. Ryan 2 from 100 (2.0%), M. J. Ryan 1 from 100 (1.0%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: D. Begg 1st in 100 (27.0%), M. Stoute 2nd in 100 (19.0%), R. Hannon 3rd in 100 (18.0%), M. Appleby 4th in 100 (17.0%), M. Channon 5th in 100 (16.0%), M. Ryan 6th in 100 (15.0%), M. Dineen 7th in 100 (14.0%), M. Johnston 8th in 100 (13.0%), M. W. Ryan 9th in 100 (12.0%), M. D. Smith 10th in 100 (11.0%), M. J. Ryan 11th in 100 (10.0%), M. J. Ryan 12th in 100 (9.0%), M. J. Ryan 13th in 100 (8.0%), M. J. Ryan 14th in 100 (7.0%), M. J. Ryan 15th in 100 (6.0%), M. J. Ryan 16th in 100 (5.0%), M. J. Ryan 17th in 100 (4.0%), M. J. Ryan 18th in 100 (3.0%), M. J. Ryan 19th in 100 (2.0%), M. J. Ryan 20th in 100 (1.0%).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Corniche Quest (1.30) won 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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## sport

GOLF: Disappointment again for the prodigal as an underachiever secures his first major while Ryder Cup team takes shape

## The taming of a young Master

When would of thought a young American who came close to winning two majors this year was not called Tiger Woods? In fact, he was named Justin Leonard and the Open champion was only thwarted in claiming a double with the US PGA Championship at Winged Foot by a brilliant final-round 66 from Davis Love.

Love's victory by five strokes meant he was the first thirty-something to win a major this year, and the third first-time winner after Woods and Leonard. Woods, the youngest US Masters champion at 21, trailed in 17 strokes behind Love after a closing 75 left him six over par.

Post Augusta, where he won by a record 12 strokes, there was huge speculation about Woods doing the mythical Grand Slam. Woods did nothing in dampen down the furor.

"You have to win four times in the right weeks," was the gist of his reasoning. By the start of the US PGA, he had changed his tune. "Realistically, it is next to impossible," he said.

While Love never finished lower than 16th in the majors this year, and Leonard joined him in having three top-10 finishes, Woods was 19th at the US Open, 24th at Royal Troon and 29th last week. On Sunday, he began the final round eight strokes off the lead and immediately bogeyed the first. He missed a birdie chance at the second and entered in distracted-putter-twirling mode.

By the time he double bogeyed the ninth, strubbing a chip and three points, the putter was getting clearance from air traffic control on its journey back to the bag.

At Augusta, he was 18 under par. In the three remaining majors, he was 12 over. For just 10 holes of those three tournaments, he was 24 over. At the US PGA he had four doubles, including two during a third

After winning at Augusta, Tiger Woods has not made the impact expected in the year's other majors. Andy Farrell reports

round when he was ideally placed to charge.

At Troon, Woods had two triples and a quadruple bogey. Without those, he would have finished second but the world No 1 has learned a hard lesson in course management. While Augusta National, a unique style of layout, is ripe for being overpowered, Woods has found that more traditional major championship sites demand more.

Congressional, scene of the US Open, Troon and Winged Foot each provide a severe test of every department of a player's game.

## Tiger Woods' major performances in 1997

The Masters, Augusta  
70, 65, 69  
Won by 12 strokes

The US Open, Congressional  
74, 67, 73, 72  
Finished 19th

The Open, Troon  
72, 74, 64, 74  
Finished 24th

The USPGA, Winged Foot  
70, 70, 71, 75  
Finished 29th

In practice for the US PGA, Jack Lumpkin, Davis Love's coach and a former assistant pro at Winged Foot, kept emphasising the need to get the ball back in play quickly from the rough. Byron Nelson, one of the legends of the game, told Leonard exactly the same at a pre-tournament reception. Even John Daly got the message. "You have no choice when you go in the rough but to take your medicine and chip out," he said after his opening 66.

Too often Woods tried to

blast away from the long grass. For his troubles, he left with a sore ankle. Of course, his aggressiveness is what makes him so special. A brilliant slicing six-iron out of the trees, which finished 12 feet from the hole, was reminiscent of Seve Ballesteros. But, as with the Spaniard, you have to ask what he was doing there in the first place. "I hit too many bad shots," Woods said. "It'll be different next year."

Two remarks made in the wake of his Masters runaway come to mind. "Up to now Tiger has only won on resort courses," Colin Montgomerie said. "I'm not saying Augusta is a resort course but there is the same amount of room off the tee." Woods has seven professional victories but none of them have come on tight courses which test every club in the bag.

And Ernie Els said: "It's when you have disappointments in majors that you start thinking that it is not too easy. It may happen to Tiger."

Woods has given golf the youthful image it needed and done much to raise the standard of everyone else's game, but he is still two weeks away from completing his first year as a professional.

Montgomerie added last week: "Experience is one thing, but you cannot beat talent. I noticed that at the Masters in a big hurry playing with Tiger on the Saturday afternoon. Everyone said he wasn't experienced. Big deal, right? The guy has immense talent and you can't heat that."

In golf, however, there are two other opponents: yourself and the course. Conquering both of those, as well as 155 other players, every week just does not happen.



Tiger Woods is frustrated on the testing Winged Foot course at the USPGA, where he finished a disappointing 17 strokes behind the winner, Davis Love. Photographs: AFP

## US captain Kite opts for experience

Ignoring one of the strongest candidates for his two wild card picks – namely himself – the American Ryder Cup captain, Tom Kite, selected Fred Couples and Lee Janzen to join the 10 players who automatically qualified from the points list for the match at Valderrama in September, writes Andy Farrell.

With six players from the team that lost the cup at Oak Hill two years ago, Kite had the luxury of leaving out a player with three top-10 finishes in the majors this year. It is unthinkable that his counterpart, Seve Ballesteros, could do the same when his team is finalised in two weeks' time, mainly because an European can claim as many as two top-10 finishes in majors this season.

With four rookies on his team already in Tiger Woods, Justin Leonard, Jim Furyk and Scott Hoch, Kite went for experience even if neither player has a winning record in the Ryder Cup. In four matches, Couples has won five games, lost seven and halved four, while Janzen lost both his outings when he played at The Belfry in 1993.

Couples, who finished 17th on the standings, was seventh at both the US Masters and the Open, but has played only a limited schedule during the course of a year when his father has been ill with leukaemia, the relationship with his fiancée broke down and his new girlfriend discovered she had breast cancer.

"Freddie has had a lot of distractions, but when he is good, he is as good as we have ever had," Kite said. Kite was also concerned about the 1992 Masters champion playing twice a day with his history of back problems, but added:

"Freddie told me numerous times that he wanted to play." Couples, 37, said: "I've had my ups and downs in the Ryder Cup, but it is always a dramatic week and a lot of fun. It's made a relatively long year come to an end."

Janzen, the '93 US Open champion, narrowly missed being selected two years ago but came into contention by finishing fourth in the USPGA on Sunday, playing the final round with Kite. "I was waiting for someone to tell me not with words, but with shots, that they wanted to be on the team," Kite said.

"Where it came down to two guys, I went with Ryder Cup experience," he added. "It was a tough decision and I discussed it with all the players who were in with a chance. I'm sure I've woken up my wife yelling out names in my sleep."

Tommy Tolles, who was knocked out of the automatic spots by Jeff Maggert's third place at Winged Foot, Paul Stankowski and Davis Love all missed out due to lack of experience, while Kite did not think veterans such as Tom Watson and Payne Stewart were playing well enough.

Half his team suggested Kite was playing well enough, but though he believes it would be possible to be a playing captain, he ruled himself when he knew he could not qualify on points. "He's a great pick," Kite said of himself. "But he needed a good run to impress the captain and 19th was not high enough on the list."

Kite added: "We are behind the eight-ball because the Europeans know Valderrama like the back of their hands. But I think I have an impressive list of names. We know the competition is going to be tight and the outcome close."

## US RYDER CUP TEAM

## Tiger Woods (age 21)

Ryder Cup debut. Three-time US Amateur champion turned pro less than a year ago and became world No 1 in second year. Masters champion in April. Five other US Tour victories have pushed his season's earnings to over \$1.6m.

## Justin Leonard (25)

Ryder Cup debut. US Amateur champion in 1992 and star of Walker Cup team which won by record 19-5 in 1993. Turned pro a year later and last month lifted first major with closing 65 at Open. Five other US Tour victories have pushed his season's earnings to over \$1.6m.

## Tom Kite (38)

Ryder Cup record: 1 cap (1985): played 3, won 2, lost 1.

## Fred Couples (33)

Two caps (1993-95): 19 US (L4). One cap (1996): 19 US (L4). One cap (1997): 19 US (L4). One cap (1998): 19 US (L4). One cap (1999): 19 US (L4). One cap (2000): 19 US (L4). One cap (2001): 19 US (L4). One cap (2002): 19 US (L4). One cap (2003): 19 US (L4). One cap (2004): 19 US (L4). One cap (2005): 19 US (L4). One cap (2006): 19 US (L4). One cap (2007): 19 US (L4). One cap (2008): 19 US (L4). One cap (2009): 19 US (L4). One cap (2010): 19 US (L4). One cap (2011): 19 US (L4). One cap (2012): 19 US (L4). One cap (2013): 19 US (L4). One cap (2014): 19 US (L4). One cap (2015): 19 US (L4). One cap (2016): 19 US (L4). One cap (2017): 19 US (L4). One cap (2018): 19 US (L4). One cap (2019): 19 US (L4). One cap (2020): 19 US (L4). One cap (2021): 19 US (L4). One cap (2022): 19 US (L4). One cap (2023): 19 US (L4). One cap (2024): 19 US (L4). One cap (2025): 19 US (L4). One cap (2026): 19 US (L4). One cap (2027): 19 US (L4). One cap (2028): 19 US (L4). One cap (2029): 19 US (L4). One cap (2030): 19 US (L4). One cap (2031): 19 US (L4). One cap (2032): 19 US (L4). One cap (2033): 19 US (L4). One cap (2034): 19 US (L4). One cap (2035): 19 US (L4). One cap (2036): 19 US (L4). One cap (2037): 19 US (L4). One cap (2038): 19 US (L4). One cap (2039): 19 US (L4). One cap (2040): 19 US (L4). One cap (2041): 19 US (L4). One cap (2042): 19 US (L4). One cap (2043): 19 US (L4). One cap (2044): 19 US (L4). One cap (2045): 19 US (L4). One cap (2046): 19 US (L4). One cap (2047): 19 US (L4). One cap (2048): 19 US (L4). One cap (2049): 19 US (L4). One cap (2050): 19 US (L4). One cap (2051): 19 US (L4). One cap (2052): 19 US (L4). One cap (2053): 19 US (L4). One cap (2054): 19 US (L4). One cap (2055): 19 US (L4). One cap (2056): 19 US (L4). One cap (2057): 19 US (L4). One cap (2058): 19 US (L4). One cap (2059): 19 US (L4). One cap (2060): 19 US (L4). One cap (2061): 19 US (L4). One cap (2062): 19 US (L4). One cap (2063): 19 US (L4). One cap (2064): 19 US (L4). 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# Wilkinson gets back to teaching

"My soundings suggest about 20 clubs are making progress," Wilkinson said. "The surprising thing is the number of (Nationwide) League teams doing it. They see the academies as a chance to compete on a level playing field, because it's all down to the quality of care."

Under his scheme, youth development would become a crucially important profession rather than a lowly post given



video evidence, has already served one game of his suspension.

## Fish set to join Bolton

Notts County, currently leading the Third Division, have been issued with a transfer embargo from the Football League after failing to pay players' signing-on fees.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

[illegible]

J B O Thompson c Ponting b Kasprudz	3	for 9 and 80 for 2. Wales won by eight wickets.
A P Jagdean not out	2	ets. Barrow; Northumberland 208 for 4 and
Extras (b4, lb2, nb12)	18	185; Cumberland 234 for 7 and 173 for 4. Cum-

M	R	W	Ave	SW	LOW	BB
18	247	20	12.35	2	1	7-38
98	4396	65	18.75	4	2	5-17
98	1398	65	17.47	4	3	6-45
83	591	40	18.00	1	0	6-59
83	723	40	18.07	2	1	6-55
49	520	28	18.57	2	0	5-49
37	504	27	18.68	2	1	8-49
92	1150	50	19.66	2	1	9-49
117	1021	51	20.01	3	1	9-22
95	1005	53	20.09	4	0	7-10
86	829	40	20.72	1	0	6-46
73	1443	68	21.22	5	2	6-23
74	1090	47	21.50	2	0	6-14
85	903	42	21.50	1	0	8-38
100	1088	49	21.79	1	0	5-53
45	513	23	22.30	1	0	5-47
56	992	44	22.54	2	0	8-17
88	895	38	22.84	2	0	6-54
85	1103	43	22.97	4	0	8-10
62	647	28	23.10	1	0	6-61

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## Toothless Tiger

Why the young Master is missing out on majors, page 22

## sport

## Teacher training

Howard Wilkinson gets back to coaching, page 23

# Red faces as McGeechan rebuffs RFU

## Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWITT

Ian McGeechan, haloed hero of the Lions' epic Test series victory over the Springboks earlier in the summer, yesterday turned his back on the laughably mishandled free-for-all surrounding the England coaching job. The Yorkshire-born Scot's decision left Jack Rowell, the much-maligned incumbent, firmly entrenched on the moral high ground and the Rugby Football Union's newly installed hierarchy cringing with well-earned embarrassment.

McGeechan advised mem-

bers of the RFU's national playing committee of his withdrawal from the running a mere 24 hours after Fran Cotton, the high-profile vice-chairman of Twickenham's management board, was quoted as describing him as "the one option for England coach". Cotton was also reported to have identified "weaknesses" in Rowell's armour, namely his approach to selection and man-management – a fairly withering condemnation in anyone's language.

Not surprisingly, Rowell was deeply upset by the outburst, just as he was when his job was being hawked nakedly around the southern hemisphere dur-

ing the build-up to the one-off Test with Australia in July, and he discussed the matter with Cotton yesterday afternoon. If the RFU now decide to stick with the status quo after plumbing the depths of crass insensitivity – they might look at their own man-management skills before criticising those of either people – they will have to bring a charm offensive to the negotiating table as well as a new contract for Big Jack.

Rowell's current deal expires on Sunday week, two days after the RFU are scheduled to reach a final decision on who will fill the most important post in the English game.

McGeechan's "thanks, but no thanks" decision leaves Rowell head and shoulders above any other British candidate in terms of experience and success at international level and it may well be that he will be asked to see his country through to the 1999 World Cup.

He was a paragon of diplomacy yesterday, saying merely that he remained keen to continue at the helm. "Over the last two years we've cut away some of the undergrowth and are seeing the green shoots emerge as a result," he said. "I've made no demands whatsoever to the RFU or anyone else. Everyone knows that I have a number of

business interests outside of rugby and that those interests require a great deal of attention, but I remain hopeful that some balance can be struck."

There was no word at all from McGeechan, whose reasons for rejecting the RFU head-hunters remained a matter of conjecture. His lucrative contract with Northampton, where he remains director of rugby, still has six years left to run and the heavy compensation demands of Keith Barwell, the club's millionaire owner, were an obvious sticking point. Indeed, Barwell had been adamant throughout the whole sorry episode that his man would stay

at Franklin's Gardens. One England insider painted a different picture, however. "Perhaps he saw the way Jack had been treated and decided the penny wasn't worth the candle," he said.

"If this situation had been allowed to develop in a business environment, heads would have rolled long ago – and I'm out talking about Jack's head, either. It's been pathetic, to be honest with you. It's been like waiting for a man to go to the gallows for no reason apart from the fact that he challenged people who were too used to life in the comfort zone."

Last night, the RFU put out

a statement saying that Cotton and his fellow national playing committee members would "continue their discussions with Jack Rowell and other candidates for the position". Those candidates include Richard Hill, the Gloucester coach who played under Rowell at Bath, and two current Bath coaches, Andy Robinson and Clive Woodward. John Mitchell, Sale's successful import from New Zealand, is also under consideration.

Antipodeans are not, however, flavour of the month with the RFU's influential traditionalist lobby. Bob Dwyer, who coached Australia to the 1991 World

Cup and guided Leicester to Pilkington Cup victory last season, was contacted by the RFU some months ago, as was Graham Henry, the tactical mastermind behind the Super 12 champions Auckland, as recently as early July, but the popular view at Twickenham is that English rugby is not yet ready for a southern hemisphere culture shock.

Whatever the outcome, the new domestic season will kick off on Saturday with the RFU smelling of anything but roses. Conspiracy or cock-up? As one Rowell supporter put it yesterday: "It's a bit of both. Basically, the RFU has managed to cock up their own conspiracy."

## Davis and Ball show way to top

### Cricket

HENRY BLOFELD  
reports from Hove  
Gloucs 320 & 331-7dec  
Sussex 324 & 161  
Gloucs win by 166 runs

After the second spirited partnership of the match between Toby Peirce and Neil Taylor had taken Sussex to within sight of a draw, their middle order collapsed miserably against the accurate and persevering spin of Richard Davis and Martyn Ball, and the 23 points Gloucestershire collected from the match has taken them to the top of the championship table.

For three and a half days, Sussex fought well against a side with championship aspirations even if Gloucestershire were not quite at their best. In the end though, a pitch which allowed the spinners slow turn, enabled them to maintain their challenge.

After Gloucestershire had hatted on for 45 minutes in the morning, Sussex's final target was 328 in a minimum of 82 overs which, with the two spinners in more or less constant action, became 94. To score at almost three and a half runs an over for this length of time with a highly suspect batting side was never a realistic option for Sussex unless they were given a wonderful start.

In the second over of the innings, Rajesh Rao played forward to Jonathan Lewis and was picked up by Ball at first slip. Peirce and Taylor then embarked upon another rebuilding exercise – they had put on 135 in the first innings – and added 107 for the second wicket now.

Both drove handsomely against the seam bowlers and defended with reasonable certainty when the spinners came on. Then, as they got their measure, they also began to drive and play off their legs with a pleasing fluency. But the spinners persevered with four fielders round the bat and it was Ball who made the all important first breakthrough.

Peirce had just reached his second 50 of the match when he went back to force Ball who turned an off-break away from the left-hander a little more than Peirce had anticipated and he was caught low at second slip by Bobby Dawson.

Taylor's 50 came next but soon afterwards he went on to the back foot and turned the ball straight to short leg.

This opened the floodgates for within minutes the Newell brothers had gone. Mark pushed forward to Davis and was caught at silly point and when Keith came onto the front foot he was held at short leg off bat and pad.

The tea interval hardly provided respite for Sussex for almost at once after the restart Paul Jarvis stretched forward to one from Ball which may have gone on with his arm and was caught low down at slip by Mark Alleyne. Five runs later Amer Khan went forward to Davis and was caught off bat and pad.

Next to go was Justin Bates who was low to Ball playing a shot which was a mixture of a pull and a sweep and Alex Edwards and Mark Robinson were out just before the start of the final hour. Ball finished with 5 for 66 in 30 overs and Davis 4 for 35 in 29.



A phalanx of deck chairs awaits the arrival of spectators at Hove yesterday as Gloucestershire took on Sussex and emerged victorious

Photograph: David Ashdown

## James impresses as Glamorgan falter

### JON GULLEY

reports from Worcester  
Worcestershire 476-9 dec  
and 295  
Glamorgan 398 and 319  
Worcestershire win by 54 runs

The Glamorgan opener, Stephen James, whose prolific form this season has been noted by the England selectors, enhanced his winter prospects with his fifth Championship century here yesterday but could not lead the Welshmen to the win they needed to return to the top of the table.

Indeed, the balance ultimately tipped the other way. Worcestershire carving through the lower orders even with one specialist spinner to clinch a victory that lifts them into title contention in fourth place.

Watched by chairman of selectors, David Graveney, James may have clinched a place on tour to the West Indies after his four-hour 130, the bedrock of Glamorgan's challenge. However, in chasing 374 to win, James needed the support of at least one more innings of substance, but none was forthcoming.

A fascinating finish was achieved without the need for

a declaration after Worcestershire, 263 for 7 overnight, lost their last three wickets for 32 in 15 overs, the England off-spinner Robert Croft finishing with 4 for 98 from 42 overs.

With a minimum of 81 overs available, Glamorgan made the perfect start, James and partner Hugh Morris managing both to weather the new ball and keep in touch with the clock in an impeccable opening stand, putting on 115 in 30 overs before the latter was run out by Vikram Solanki's superb throw from extra cover as James chanced a single.

James lost another partner when Stuart Lampitt brilliantly

caught Adrian Dale at slip, giving Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, a wicket from the first ball of a lengthy spell of respectable off-break bowling that suffered only when Wagner Younis went after him in some desperation towards the close.

The biggest blow, however, was inflicted by the seamer Gavin Haynes, who removed Mike Powell and, crucially, Matthew Maynard from consecutive deliveries, the Glamorgan captain perversely following his sublime unbeaten 161 with a first-ball duck.

James, dropped behind the wicket off Moody on 80 just be-

fore tea, completed his century against the same bowler with his 17th four. With Croft, who must attend an English Cricket Board disciplinary hearing in Bristol today before rejoining the England squad, chipping in, 78 runs were added for the fifth wicket, reviving Glamorgan's hopes.

But the odds shifted again when Croft drove the pace bowling prospect, Maneer

Mirza, to mid-on for 39. Then, with 106 still needed, Glamorgan almost immediately lost Gary Butcher to a return catch followed by James, who holed out to deep backward square.

Younis ran out of partners as Adrian Shaw was run out by Lampitt's fine throw before 19-year-old Mirza, playing in only his third Championship match, took the last two wickets in seven balls.

**THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD**  
No. 3381 Tuesday 19 August By Ackerl Monday's Solution

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**ACROSS**  
1 See this variety of bean go with eel cooked in apartment (9)  
6 Cube contains energy to remove winter obscurity (2-3)  
9 Mark of, say, fish is reflected here (5)  
10 Speak about making car nut tight, it provides safety (9)  
11 Cries out with anger after getting to desk (10)  
12 Some hopes of Latin American purchasers (4)  
14 Receiver holds first-rate porcelain (7)  
15 Conductor makes old Chinese leader take disturbed rest (7)  
17 Vine's damaged by lad of course? (7)

**DOWN**  
19 Awfully guilty holding right kind of worship (7)  
20 Poor guy carries line that's not pretty (4)  
22 Oil company engaged one worker agreed by both sides (3-8)  
25 I'm faultless but tense? (9)  
26 Circle's not valid when egg-shaped (5)  
27 See about, say, a poem (5)  
28 OK to liberal trade with Yen came 24 hours ago (9)

**Monday's Solution**  
ORGANIST REPERCUSSIONS  
SCAM TIMEQUANTITY  
TIAAQUARTY  
CUNTERED TAIL  
RISUOUE  
EVILS SQUATULAK  
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MAGNETISM MERGE  
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STUART DOOMSDAY

## Yorkshire hit blockade

### ROUND-UP

Centuries from Giles White and John Stephenson, their first in the Championship this season, denied Yorkshire victory at Portsmouth yesterday after Hampshire had followed on.

Hampshire began the final day on 173 for 3 in their second innings, still needing another 47 to make Yorkshire bat again. But White, whose previous top score for Hampshire in 44 matches was a modest 73, led the resistance with a career-best 145.

At the fall of the eighth wicket at 410, Hampshire were only 190 in front and there were still 42 overs left, but Yorkshire's hopes finally disappeared in a

stand of 54 in 21 overs between Shaun Udal and Simon Kenshaw.

Nottinghamshire squandered a golden opportunity to claim their fourth Championship victory of the season and, in the end, they had to survive the final over to avoid defeat against Somerset at Trent Bridge.

With Matthew Downman scoring his third Championship century of the season, Nottinghamshire appeared to be well on the way to maximum points as they chased a victory target of 320 in a minimum of 76 overs. However, the departure of the captain, Paul Johnson, and Downman in quick succession sparked a dramatic slide that ended with the wicketkeeper,

Wayne Noon, having to keep out Mushaq Ahmed in the final over to secure a draw.

The Pakistan leg-spinner had been chiefly responsible for that dramatic slide with a burst of three for eight in 23 balls that had Nottinghamshire wobbling after their comfortable progress in the afternoon session.

Nottinghamshire are to enter the bidding for Shane Warne and will meet with the Australian leg-spinner's manager, Austin Robertson. Lancashire and Sussex are also interested in Warne. Nottinghamshire's cricket committee chairman, Stuart Foster, said: "Warne is our targeted player and we hope to meet him in the next 10 days, but we're in the hands of his agent."

## Everton interested in Saunders

### Football

ALAN NIXON

Howard Keodall is considering bringing Dean Saunders back to Merseyside from Nottingham Forest in time for the weekend.

The Everton manager has asked Forest about Saunders' price and availability and is considering a £500,000 bid for the former Liverpool striker, who is on the fringe of Dave Bassett's side. Saunders, 33, would be delighted to return to the Premier League and the move could go ahead in time for a debut against West Ham on Saturday.

Keodall has run out of targets, including Manchester City's Uwe Rösler, and needs a new partner for Duncan Ferguson in the hopes of avoiding a second successive home defeat. Everton had even considered a move for Ian Rush before he joined Newcastle, but Saunders is emerging as the favourite to join the Toffees in the next few days.

Nottingham Hotspur are interested in signing Peter Nowak, Poland's playmaker, from 1860 Munich, according to reports in the German sports magazine Kicker.

The magazine said Nowak had agreed personal terms with the London club and hoped he could move on a free transfer. However, the Munich club's president, Karl-Heinz Wildmoser, has said the club wants \$2m (£1.25m) for the player, who is under contract to the club until 1999.

"If Tottenham want to come and haggle, the matter is finished straight away. In that case, we'll insist on the [current] contract," Kicker quoted Wildmoser as saying.

There was no comment yesterday from Spurs on their apparent pursuit of the 33-year-old.

More football, page 23

## CATCH DICKIE BIRD AT THE WICKET

AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY

Today is Finals Day in the national Under-15 Club Cricket Championships. And, for the thirteenth consecutive season, the competition is sponsored by Sun Life of Canada.

### WORLD CLASS

This year the final, at Hampshire C.C.'s May's Bounty ground at Basingstoke, will be umpired by the legendary Dickie Bird. Not only will there be fascinating cricket, but also the adjudication of a world-class umpire.

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Sun Life of Canada is committed to the continued development of the game at grassroots level. The company's sponsorship involves assisting the young stars of tomorrow in growing their cricketing development just as its financial expertise can contribute to your financial development.

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